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Iraq withdraws from Iranian town

Saddam offers Tehran peace

BAGHDAD, July 17, (AP): President Saddam Hussein declared today that following Iraq's recent battlefield victories Iran's rulers should abandon their illusions of victory and accept an "honourable" peace ending the eight-year-old war.

"Iran's rulers have to accept the peace road, they have to abandon their unjust dreams and foolish mottoes and slogans, their hollow illusions after their defeats," the Iraqi leader declared in a speech broadcast live nationwide by Baghdad Radio.

A military communiqué issued shortly after Saddam's speech said Iraqi forces withdrew from the Iranian border town of Dehloran which they seized last Tuesday, after purging the area of Iranian forces.

Dehloran

There was no immediate Iranian comment to the Iraqi report.

The Liberation of Zubaidat and capture of Dehloran was the latest of a series of Iraqi victories this year that chased Iranian troops out of almost all the Iraqi territory they had seized in the past six years.

Saddam said these victories could pave the way for a peaceful settlement and urged Iran to accept the year-old UN Security Council call for ceasefire in the war.

Saddam's speech on the 20th anniversary of his Arab Baath Socialist Party's seizure of power in 1968 emphasised the series of recent battle victories which put Iraq's border areas almost completely of Iranian troops.

Confident

"Iraq stands now on victorious ground ... confident today and in the future. Iraqis and the noble Arabs now stand on victorious peaks while the rulers of Iran are in the trench of defeat and shame," he said.

"Iraq extends the hand of honourable peace and calls on the Iranian rulers to draw lessons from their defeats," he added.

Saddam said that the correct path to peace should be based on five clear and obvious principles. He listed them as follows:

- Total and unconditional withdrawal to international borders.

- Total and prompt exchange of prisoners of war.

- The signing of a peace and non-aggression agreement between Iraq and Iran.

- Non-intervention in each other's internal affairs and respect for each country's elected choices.

- Peace between Iraq and Iran must be a positive element for establishing security and stability in the area, and especially to the Gulf region."

Iraq maintains there can be no end to the protracted conflict



but opposed by the Soviet Union.

Saddam declared that "Iraq strongly rejects any attempt to impose a partial settlement to the war or to deviate from the principles set by the (UN) resolution.

"This will amount to rewarding the Iranian regime for its rejection and obstinacy."

He went on to blame unnamed international parties of encouraging Iran not to accept the Security Council ceasefire call.

"It is regrettable that certain international circles have been taking part in this game. But whatever their intentions, they are miscalculating, misassessing the situation," he added.

Liberated

Saddam first listed his five-point plan for ending the war in an open letter to the Iranian leadership in August 1986.

But his plea for peace this time is backed by Iraq's recent series of military victories.

Over the past three months Iraq has liberated most of its territory that it took Iran six years to capture in the war that will be eight years old in September.

Saddam stressed in his speech that any settlement should guarantee Iraq's navigation rights along the Shatt Al Arab waterway, which forms the southernmost border with Iran.

(Continued on Page 2)

Rafsanjani briefs leaders on war

NICOSIA, July 17, (Reuters): Iranian military supremo Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani has for the first time since his appointment briefed the three branches of government on the military and political situation in Iran.

The Iranian news agency IRNA said today that Rafsanjani, made military supremo on June 2 in the wake of a string of battlefield defeats by Iraq, stressed the need for more regular troops and volunteers at the warfronts.

The agency, said Rafsanjani, who is also parliamentary Speaker, said Iran's Muslim clergymen were needed at the fronts more now than ever before.

Rafsanjani said last week that Iran would be placing more emphasis on its regular armed forces although the volunteers were needed at the fronts in the short term.

Gun law talks

BAGHDAD, July 17, (Reuters): A senior Soviet official arrived in Baghdad today for talks which Soviet sources said would cover the Iran-Iraq war and other Middle East issues.

The official Iraqi news agency quoted first Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Vorontsov as saying his visit was aimed at "holding consultations on several issues of common interest."

He visited Iraq last October on a tour which also took him to Kuwait and Iran.

Convicts linked to Sadat killing escape

CAIRO, July 17, (Reuters): Three Egyptian convicts serving life terms for plotting revolution and for being connected with the assassination of former President Anwar Sadat, escaped from prison today by overpowering guards with a crowbar and small firebombs, made from match heads, security sources said.

The sources said the prisoners, armed with a crowbar, broke down the door to their cell in the top-security Torah jail near Cairo and overpowered two guards, later reported in stable condition in hospital in Cairo.

Jumped

Using a rope made of clothes, they scaled a prison wall where they found a sentry asleep, the sources said. They took his gun and shot him in the hand when he awoke, alerting other guards.

Tossing about 10 of the small match head firebombs they jumped down the wall and escaped, the sources said.

The government offered an

Police given shoot-on-sight orders

Riot-hit Hyderabad under curfew

HYDERABAD, July 17, (AP): Police imposed a "shoot-on-sight" curfew after gunmen attacked the mayor today, sparking riots, official Radio Pakistan said. At least three people were killed, including the mayor's driver and a municipal councillor.

Ali Hasan, a resident of the Hyderabad suburbs, said police announced by loudspeaker "not to come out of the house, otherwise you'll be shot down."

Hyderabad is 110 miles (176 kilometres) north of the southern port city of Karachi.

Spread

Major Aftab Sheikh was hospitalized with four bullet wounds but was out of danger, officials said. His driver, who was hit seven times, was initially reported in critical condition and later died.

The radio said the gunmen also killed a Hyderabad mun-

icipal councillor who was accompanying the mayor to a funeral.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack.

Witnesses said that after word of the shooting spread, riots broke out and mobs set fire to 15 cars and several banks, shops and gas pumps. The Army was sent in to quell the rioting. One teenager was reported dead. He was believed to have been killed during the riot.

Shops in the city of Mirpur Khas, 50 miles (80 kilometres) north of Hyderabad, closed to protest the shooting.

Residents and government officials said they feared the shooting would rekindle clashes involving two factions: one urging independence for Pakistan's southern province of Sind and another involving immigrants to Pakistan from India.

The once in a lifetime duty for every Muslim to travel to Islam's holiest shrines at Makkah and Madina is affected this year by concern over Iranian-inspired riots in 1987 in which more than 400 people were killed.

Riyadh has warned that anyone attempting to use the haj as a political platform again will face harsh punishment. Iran has

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Sheikh Saad ends US visit

WASHINGTON, July 17, (KUNA): HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Kuwait, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, left Washington last night after a successful six-day visit to the United States.

He left for Munich where he will stay for a few days before returning to Kuwait.

Kuwaiti officials expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the visit and the extensive meetings which were held in the US.

One official said the visit had opened a new chapter in Kuwaiti-American relations.

Aspect

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister met President Reagan, Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci, acting Secretary of State John Whitehead, and members of the US Congress.

Sheikh Saad also met twice with Vice-President George Bush and on Friday he met the National Security Adviser Colin Powell in the presence of Assistant Secretary of Defence Richard Armitage.

His major policy speech at the National Press Club on Wednesday was highlighted by the American media.

Sheikh Saad's talks covered every aspect of the Kuwait-US



Sheikh Saad shaking hands with US officials before his departure from US.

One State Department official said the visit "went even beyond our expectations." The official said Sheikh Saad and the accompanying delegation did a great job in expressing Kuwait's position and points of view.

Sheikh Saad and the accompanying delegation were seen off by acting Secretary of State John Whitehead and top administration officials.

Cabinet praises positive results

THE Council of Ministers yesterday lauded the positive results of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah's visit to the US.

Briefing newsmen following the cabinet session, the acting Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and State Minister for Housing Nasser Abdullah Al Roudhan said the cabinet appreciated the great efforts made by Sheikh Saad during his successful visit.

Clarifying the issue, the director of the immigration department at the capital governorate, Colonel Ahmed Al Wohaib, said that an applicant wishing to sponsor his parents should draw a monthly salary of KD450 if employed by the government sector and KD600 if employed by private sector.

Combined

Further, he said, the combined salary of the husband and wife are not acceptable. Only individual salary of the actual sponsor is valid.

Combined salaries of the same person working in two places, even if legally, will not be accepted either. Only one salary of the applicant will be considered.

12 die in Punjab violence

NEW DELHI, July 17, (Reuters): An Indian police inspector and three Sikh separatists were killed in an early morning gun battle near the Punjab town of Chandigarh today, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

It said the four were among 12 people killed today in the bloody campaign for an independent Sikh homeland in the north Indian state which has cost more than 1,500 lives this year.

Fierce

The agency said inspector Jagjit Singh was shot dead during a fierce encounter with four separatist militants that lasted nearly one hour.

Two policemen were wounded, while one of the four militants escaped, PTI said.

TEL AVIV, July 17, (Reuters): An Israeli soldier shot dead a Palestinian who tried to snatch his gun in a Tel Aviv suburb today in the first killing of an Arab inside Israel since the uprising in the occupied territories began seven months ago.

Police said 18-year-old Yossi Hadasi shot a West Bank Palestinian in the chest after he and two other Arab assailants tried to grab his M-1 rifle at a bus stop in Petah Tikva, east of Tel Aviv.

Police declined to identify the dead man, but Palestinian sources named him as 21-year-old Salim Mahzoul from Jit village near Tulkarem.

Hadasi, who was conscripted two months ago, said one Arab leapt on him from behind and while he was struggling with him two others attacked him.

Assault

"I elbowed the attacker in the ribs and threw him aside. I distanced myself ... and loaded (the gun) and I fired. The two assailants who tried to assault me during the attack of the first escaped because they saw I shot him and they did not want to get hurt," Hadasi told Army radio.

Police searched the area and arrested the assailants.

At least 233 Palestinians have been killed, mostly by Israeli troops, since a revolt against Israeli rule erupted in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip last December, but Mahzoul was the first Arab shot inside Israel's pre-1967 borders.

Blows

The Army confirmed Saber Feris Al-Nimnim, 24, from Shati refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, died from severe blows, but said it could not confirm he was beaten by troops.

His death sparked fresh protests in the camp today. The Army used teargas to disperse youths who erected street barricades and stoned soldiers.

Earlier in the day, Saleh had formally tendered his resignation to clear the way for his re-election.

He told Parliament in a speech broadcast over state radio: "You will ... find me a soldier for the service of the country, people and revolution under all circumstances."

Another Palestinian in Jenin camp was shot and wounded in the leg, Arab sources said. Hospital officials could not immediately be contacted and the Army said it was

Three bombs explode in Barcelona

BARCELONA, July 17, (AP): Three home-made bombs exploded early today in three nearby towns of this northeastern port city of Barcelona, injuring one person and breaking windows and damaging parked cars, police said.

A Catalonian independence group named Terra Lliure claimed responsibility for the blasts in a telephone call to the local Catalonia Radio.

A bomb placed in a window of the office of the electricity company Fesca in Masnou town exploded causing slight cuts to Jorge Pujada and breaking windows and damaging six parked cars, police said.

The second home-made bomb also placed in a window of an unemployment office at Cornellà town exploded at the same time, breaking windows and damaging about a dozen of parked cars in the area, police said.

The third bomb placed in a branch of the Banco de Europa in the town of Badalona also shattered nearby windows, according to police.

Police said a fourth bomb in the window of another unemployment office in Barcelona was deactivated by bomb experts.

The four home-made bombs contained several kilograms of an explosive called Cloratita.

Terra Lliure, which stands for free land in the Catalan language, fights for independence of the four-province region of Catalonia of which Barcelona is the capital. The group has claimed responsibility for several attacks in Barcelona in the last two years.

Key dies

WASHINGTON, July 17, (AP): David McKendree Key Sr., a career foreign service officer who served as ambassador to Burma in 1950-1952, has died of cancer at age 88.

Key, who entered the foreign service in 1925, had assignments in Antwerp, Belgium, Berlin, London, Ottawa, Rome, Barcelona, Spain, and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He died on Friday at his home in Lake Wales, Florida.

Holidaymakers camp out at UK airports

LONDON, July 17, (Reuter): Thousands of holidaymakers camped out at British airports today, their annual rush to the sun clouded by long delays hitting cheap charter flights to resorts in Spain and the Mediterranean.

"We can see the flood now," said Geoff Smith, deputy manager of Luton Airport, near London, as overnight congestion eased and delayed flights began taking off.

Aviation officials in Britain and Europe blamed the sheer volume of holiday traffic, combined with restrictions by air controllers, for the delays. Some planes leaving British airports over the weekend took off more than 30 hours late.

The officials said a 24-hour strike planned by French air traffic controllers for Monday threatened to cause further chaos. Union officials in Paris said the dispute would close French airspace to domestic and

Soviet police get tough with demonstrators

Armenians warned of crackdown

MOSCOW, July 17, (Reuter): Three hundred Armenians meeting at a Moscow cemetery today were warned by a force of about three times as many police and security men that any attempt to demonstrate on the streets would face a tough crackdown.

The police were headed by General Nikolai Sharankov, who moved about the crowd to speak directly to known activists.

"I warn you now that my men will arrest anyone attempting to take this meeting outside the cemetery," he told Armenian artist Karyun Nagapetyan, a prominent speaker at previous protest meetings on the Armenian capital, Yerevan, had declined to give his name.

Critical

The effect of the return-to-work call will not be fully apparent until Monday, when businesses and shops are due to reopen after the weekend.

The decision to end the stoppage was taken at a rally of 30,000 people in Yerevan yesterday, apparently as a goodwill gesture ahead of tomorrow's session of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet to review the Nagorno-Karabakh crisis.

The session will be attended by

among those attending today's meeting, but an orderly atmosphere prevailed.

An Armenian official at the gathering, who described himself as the permanent representative of the Armenian government in Moscow, confirmed that a two-week general strike in the Armenian capital, Yerevan, had been called off.

"People are going back to work and 90 percent of transport is working normally again. I think that in two or three days Yerevan will be completely back to normal," said the official, who declined to give his name.

One man died after being hit by a plastic bullet and 36 people were reported to have been seriously hurt in the violence, in which newspapers said demonstrators pelted troops with stones and bottles after they were forcibly evicted from the airport.

Heated arguments broke out

India, Turkey improving ties

Rajiv arrives in Ankara

ANKARA, July 17, (Reuter): Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi arrived in Ankara today for a four-day official visit, the first by an Indian premier in 28 years.

He is returning Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's 1986 visit to New Delhi, regarded as the start of improved relations which had shown no significant developments since the then Indian Prime Minister Pandit Nehru visited Ankara in 1960.

Rajiv will confer with Ozal on Monday before flying to Istanbul to meet President Kenan Evren.

In an interview in the English-language Turkish Daily News today, Rajiv said: "Democracy and secularism will certainly be one of the major pillars for a closer relationship between India and Turkey."

India, a Non-Aligned

Movement leader, has called for the withdrawal of Turkish troops from Cyprus and has been wary of Turkey's close ties with its feuding neighbour Pakistan.

Relations hit a low point in 1965 when the United States sent planes to Pakistan via Turkey.

Efforts

However, Ozal has made special efforts to improve ties with India which he regards as a regional power and a democratic country with secular principles similar to Turkey's.

A 1973 trade agreement remained relatively dormant until after Ozal's New Delhi visit.

India's exports to Turkey increased almost fivefold to \$29.2 million in 1986 from \$6.2 million in 1985.

Indian exports to Turkey until the end of November 1987 totalled \$39 million, against imports from Turkey worth \$69

million.

India exports machines, spare parts, spices, jute, canvas and basic chemicals to Turkey and buys mainly iron and steel, crude natural borates, chickpeas and lentils.

Rajiv will spend Tuesday sightseeing in the Aegean port of Izmir and will leave Turkey on Wednesday.

In Madrid, the Indian prime minister met three times with Premier Felipe Gonzalez for talks on bilateral issues and world affairs and attended a private dinner hosted by King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia.

Authorities said they would seek to have the baby kept out of the family's custody.

4-kilogramme baby was in stable condition and was expected to be released shortly from Mills Memorial Hospital in San Mateo, about 16 kilometres south of San Francisco, officials said. She will be placed in a foster home until a court rules, said Robert McMillan, deputy director of the county's child protective services office.

Mr Locasto, who runs a limousine service, appeared shaken at a news conference on Saturday. Gonzalez described his meetings with Rajiv as "intense and very satisfactory."

Their talks focused on increasing trade ties between their nations which have been almost non-existent.

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INTERNATIONAL

South Sudan to be exempt from Islamic sharia

KHARTOUM, July 17. (Reuters): Sudan says it plans to exempt its animist and Christian South from Islamic sharia punishment (hodoud) that include the stoning of adulterers and amputation of thieves' hands.

The introduction of sharia law in 1983 by former President Jaafar Nimeiri fuelled a war in the South where guerrillas of the Sudan People's Liberation Army, SPLA, are fighting to end what they see as domination by the North.

The war-weary South will be exempt from the tough laws although non-Muslims in the North will be subject to them.

A draft penal code is due to be discussed by the cabinet on Wednesday. When approved, it will go to parliament, where Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi's coalition government enjoys an overwhelming majority.

Disclosing details of the new code at a news conference last night, Justice Minister Hassan Al-Tourabi said the proposed laws reflected a political commitment and were partly designed to fill what he called a political vacuum.

"These laws ... will not implement hodoud punishments on Muslims or non-Muslims in the South," said Al-Tourabi, who is also attorney-general and deputy prime minister.

New Code

The new code, when approved by parliament, would replace the one introduced in 1983 by Nimeiri, the provisions of which have been relaxed since his overthrow in 1985.

The war in the South, the disruption of agriculture it caused and drought have forced some three million Southerners — half the estimated population of the South — to flee to Northern Sudan and Ethiopia.

Tourabi said non-Muslims in Northern Sudan, where Muslims are in the majority, would be subject to hodoud, adding that punishments could not be applied on the basis of the religion of every individual offender.

Offenders in the South would be punished by jail or fines, he said instead of hodoud.

Hodoud includes the amputation of hands for theft, the flogging of drunkards, the stoning of adulterers and death for heretics.

— AP



Villagers stranded by monsoon floods in Bangladesh collect rotten jute plants and water hyacinth and try to make a floating platform for temporary refuge. (Reuter wirephoto)

Bangladesh flood victims face hunger

KUNDA, Bangladesh, July 17. (Reuters): Tens of thousands of people in Bangladesh face hunger and disease after being made homeless by floods that have killed at least 150.

Officials monitoring the floods told reporters today at least 150 people had drowned or died from snakebite or disease across the country. Unofficial sources put the death toll at nearly 250.

In Kunda, 130 km east of the capital of Dhaka, one doctor and 12 uneducated assistants provide health care for 7,000 people stranded in half-submerged shanties.

Starvation

"This is almost an impossible task," said the doctor, who works for the Save the Children Fund.

At least 80 per cent of rice and jute crops in Kunda and neighbouring villages have been swept away by floods.

"Probably we shall have no way but to starve once the flooding is over," said farmer Abidus Sobhan, father of five children.

People and snakes, desperately trying to escape death,

China urged to allow mixed dancing

BEIJING, July 17. (UPI): A leading state-run newspaper urged authorities today to repeal a policy that forbids foreigners and Chinese from dancing together in Beijing dance halls.

In what was viewed as a daring lead article, the official China Youth News criticised rules posted by Beijing authorities that ban "mixed" dancing in the city's hotels, and published unusually outspoken comments from three tourism officials.

While officials insist no official restrictions exist on social contacts between foreigners and Chinese, many people still harbour a traditional, deep-seated suspicion of outsiders — despite Beijing's 10-year-old "open door" policy.

The head of the roads and highways division for Brahmanbaria district, Mohiuddin Ahmed, said more than \$11 million would be needed to repair damaged roads in his area alone.

Meanwhile, five days of torrential rains in the Pakistani provinces of Punjab and Northwest Frontier and Azad Kashmir state have caused havoc, killing and injuring several people and damaging thousands of kilometres of fertile farm lands.

Earlier last week 10 people were killed when a freak monsoon lashed the district of Muzaffar in the Punjab.

— AP

Bhopal gas disaster victims want out-of-court settlements

BHOPAL, India, July 17. (Reuters): Victims of the Bhopal gas disaster, despairing of legal redress, 3 1/2 years after the world's worst industrial accident, want quick out-of-court settlements from their claims.

"I will at least be able to live the rest of my life with dignity," said Nathu Ram Gupta, 40, who lost a son and daughter to poisonous gas from the Bhopal Union Carbide pesticide plant in December 1984.

Nearly 3,000 people were killed and 200,000 injured in the gas leak and the Indian government has filed a \$3.3-billion compensation suit against the US-based company on behalf of the

victims.

The government is also pressing criminal charges against nine people including Warren Anderson, former chairman of Union Carbide. But few people in Bhopal worry about the criminal case.

"You can see what the government is doing. They talk about giving us money but all we do is fill up papers and forms," said Gupta who suffers from respiratory problems and constant pain in the chest.

"I was a machine man in a printing press but I lost my job because my vision is now affected. I do odd jobs and work as a watchman making 300 rupees

(\$21) a month. I spend almost 200 rupees (\$14) a month on medicine," he said.

As he spoke in a Bhopal street on Saturday, a crowd of claimants gathered around, all speaking in favour of quick out-of-court settlement.

Gupta fled his small house near the Union Carbide plant when the gas leaked and formed clouds of yellow vapour.

The Indian government filed criminal charges against Union Carbide, Anderson and the company's Indian officials in December last year after negotiations for an out-of-court settlement failed.

— AP

Khomeini's hold on power still solid

TEHRAN, July 17. (Reuters): Ayatollah Khomeini's hold on power in Iran is apparently still solid despite the high political and psychological cost of the draining war with Iraq, diplomats and Iranians say.

But the nine-year-old Islamic government could be torn apart in a fight for power when Khomeini, 85, dies, they said.

Recent military setbacks united the leaders, bolstering the role of Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the speaker of parliament-appointed acting commander-in-chief by Khomeini last month.

Defeat

Rafsanjani, 54, now the country's top political leader, has begun to break Iran's self-sought diplomatic isolation despite charges of "defeatism" from Islamic hardliners.

The slow opening is expected to continue, diplomats and government officials said, although the July 3 US downing of an Iran Air jetliner played into the hands of fundamentalists.

Iranian officials angrily deny any plans for rapprochement with the United States, which Tehran brands "the great Satan."

Women wear ankle-long chadors in the searing sun, but often blue jeans and trendy gym shoes peek out below their black coats prescribed by Islamic propriety laws.

Many Iranians complain over the strict Islamic regulations. When public morale plummeted during six weeks of Iraqi bombardments of Tehran from late February, a certain easing was noted, they said.

— AP

Angry crowds, their voices driven to a fever pitch by a slogan chanted, shouted anti-American slogans before Western reporters invited last week after the Airbus attack.

"We are not all like that, you know," a junior government official said privately this week. "Not all Iranians hate America. Many are unhappy about this image we have outside."

Foreign residents say more and more Iranians now voice disenchantment with the government and with the Gulf war — now in its eighth year — which diplomats say has cost 500,000 lives.

"But they look over their shoulders when they do this," one European businessman said.

"This regime is tough on dissent."

Reminder

In Tehran sandbagged banks, bomb shelters and windows taped against the impact of bombs provide poignant reminders of what is officially known as "the imposed war."

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165 rockets struck Afghan cities since May 15**Najib warns of martial law**

ISLAMABAD, July 17. (AP): Afghan President Najib said he is prepared to impose martial law to counter guerrilla attacks on the capital of Kabul and other cities.

Najib, speaking on the state-run Radio Kabul, said 165 rockets have struck Afghan cities since May 15 when the Soviets began withdrawing their troops under a UN-mediated agreement.

The Afghan news media reported 20 people were killed and 34 wounded on Friday when an unspecified number of rockets hit the capital, which has been the main target of the rocket attacks.

Soviet troops

"We will revenge these hostile actions," Najib said in the broadcast monitored in Islamabad. "Our security forces are in a position to hit the attackers," he said.

He said his government was considering martial law as one way to counter the guerrilla attacks, but he did not specify what measures might be imposed. Afghanistan has been ruled by a series of military-controlled governments since a

coup by leftist officers in April 1978.

The Soviet Union sent troops into Afghanistan in December 1979 to help the Marxist government battle anti-communist rebels. Soviet officials have said that there were 103,000 troops in Afghanistan as of May 15.

Najib said government forces were firing in civilian areas to undermine support for the rebels.

rocks, and suddenly we see 20 hit."

No group has asserted responsibility for Friday's rocket attack on Kabul.

Haq said government forces were firing in civilian areas to undermine support for the rebels.

Warning

Najibullah blamed neighbouring Pakistan for a rebel rocket attack on Kabul that killed 20 people on Friday.

He said his Soviet-backed government would seriously deal with such acts.

Radio Kabul also reported that Brig. Gen. Saifullah, the Kabul police commander, told a news conference on Saturday that 76 people were killed and 91 wounded by 124 rockets that hit the capital during the past month.

A major guerrilla commander, Abdul Haq, claimed in a telephone interview that Soviet and Afghan troops had fired rockets into residential districts in Kabul to discredit the rebels. Haq, contacted at Pakistan's frontier city of Peshawar, said, "we fire five

missiles."

Najibullah did not elaborate beyond saying, "I can order fire against fire, we want peace."

The radio said the Kabul government on Saturday also lodged two more complaints with UN officials about Paki-

stan violations of the Geneva accords, under which Moscow began pulling out its more than 100,000 troops in Afghanistan on May 15.

Weapons

Najibullah complained rebel attacks on Kabul had increased with weapons brought from Pakistan and said 131 people were killed and 167 wounded since May, most of them civilians.

He said rumours had been spread blaming Friday's attack on Soviet troops. "I must say that this is total lie."

Tass said on Friday people seeking to sabotage the Geneva settlement were spreading the rumours in an attempt to discredit the Soviet forces.

Pakistan and Afghanistan have pledged in the Geneva accords not to interfere in each other's internal affairs, but both sides accuse each other of violations.

The Washington Post, quoting Red Cross administration sources, reported on Saturday that Pakistan had halted the flow of almost all US-made weapons to the rebels with the approval of the United States.

Pakistan seeks new avenues of employment

ISLAMABAD, July 17. (KUNA): Pakistan government will soon send a number of teams to different parts of the world, especially the Middle East, to find new avenues of employment for skilled and unskilled Pakistani labour, according to Federal Minister for Labour, Manpower and Overseas Employment Ahmed Nawaz Bugti.

The teams will undertake survey of employment opportunities in public as well as private sectors in the countries to be visited, he said in an interview published today.

Bugti said these teams would also determine the extent of competition faced by Pakistani labour from other nations, particularly India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the Philippines.

One of the reasons for despatching such manpower teams was to boost Pakistan's foreign exchange earnings through worker's remittances, he said, adding that at one time these remittances had shot up to \$2.85 billion per annum. This year's earnings had come down to \$2 billion, he said.

The minister noted that the flow of Pakistani manpower had not stopped but those returning were more than those who were going. It was obviously due to the fact that Middle Eastern oil boom period was over, he said.

However, Bugti hoped that with the ending of the Iran-Iraq war massive rehabilitation and reconstruction would start and the demand for Pakistani manpower would again shoot up.

NPA vows not to surrender**Filipino rebels offer truce**

MANILA, July 17. (AP): Communist rebels said today they were willing to open new rounds of peace talks with President Corazon Aquino but warned they would not surrender to the government.

The communist New People's Army, armed wing of the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines, made the statement in a tape-recorded message sent to news agencies.

But Gregorio Rosal, alias Ka (comrade) Roger, spokesman for the rebels operating in the southern part of the main Luzon island, said the offer must not be taken by the government as an act of surrender.

The 25,000 strong communist rebels have been waging a 19-year-old guerrilla war to estab-

lish a marxist state.

Rosal represented the National Democratic Front, the 12-member communist umbrella organization that includes the Communist Party and the rebel Army, during a 60-day ceasefire in late 1986.

The truce collapsed in February 1987 with both sides accusing the other of launching attacks during the ceasefire.

"We are ready to hold talks for the pursuit of long-lasting peace but never for surrender," Rosal said. "The present government is prone to saddling us with terms unacceptable for free-wheeling talks with the military for one, acting as saboteurs to any act of surrender."

The 25,000 strong communist rebels have been waging a 19-year-old guerrilla war to estab-

lish a marxist state.

— AP

Gurkha rebellion may end soon

DARJEELING, India, July 17. (Reuters): The Chief Minister of India's West Bengal state said today he was ready to sign an agreement giving autonomy to the Gurkha-majority areas of his state, to end a two-year rebellion in the Darjeeling hills.

Marxist Chief Minister Jyoti Basu said he would travel to New Delhi for a planned meeting on July 25 with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Gurkha rebel leader Subhas Ghising.

But his climbdown has not been accepted by all Gurkha factions, and a police spokesman in Darjeeling said rival gangs of militants armed with guns and bombs were roaming the nearby town of Kalimpong looking for a showdown.

Ghising, saying he had not received any invitation from

proclaimed in Kalimpong that his hardline opponent Chattra Subba must surrender by Monday or be hunted down and killed.

In another district, militants trying to extort funds from businessmen in the town of Dooars were confronted by police who killed three of them in the resulting exchange of fire.

Ghising said: "This is the handiwork of misguided elements. Police should take action against them."

But a police source said no action was being contemplated until the agreement was signed because: "Ghising might change his mind tomorrow and say we are torturing his men."

Experience Korean Hospitality on your way to the



Sheikh Saad flew to the US aboard Al Jaberiya emphasizing Kuwait's determination not to bow to terrorism.



During his visit the Crown Prince met President Reagan and addressed newsmen (right) at the National Press Club of Washington. (KUNA pictures)



Officials express satisfaction

Sheikh Saad's visit strengthens US-Kuwait ties

WASHINGTON, July 17. (KUNA): Top American and Kuwaiti officials have expressed satisfaction with the just-concluded six-day visit to Washington by HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla.

"A new chapter in the ever-evolving Kuwait-American relationship has been opened," one senior State Department official, who took part in all the Crown Prince's high-level discussions here, said.

Expressed

And Kuwaiti officials accompanying Sheikh Saad on his first-ever visit to the US expressed equal satisfaction, saying the visit has allowed Kuwait to outline its clear-cut and consistent policies to the Reagan administration, to members of the US Congress, and to the American public through the influential US media on all the important issues to the Gulf and Arab countries.

There is a consensus here that Sheikh Saad's visit has greatly enhanced the Kuwait-American relationship on a number of levels while still making clear to the Americans Kuwait's traditional position of "positive

neutrality and non-alignment."

It was noted here that the Crown Prince had spent much time talking to the American media, which highlighted the visit all through this last week.

In particular, Sheikh Saad's major policy statement before the National Press Club of Washington on Wednesday was given wide coverage across the United States.

In addition to newspapers which carried his speech, television stations and more than 500 radio stations carried it on live.

Sheikh Saad, who is the first Arab official to visit Washington since the last Arab summit conference in Algiers, seized every opportunity to push for a solution of the Iran-Iraq war and also to outline the need for a recognition of Palestinian rights in any peaceful settlement.

Both American and Kuwaiti officials said President Reagan's recognition of the "legitimate, political aspirations" of the Palestinian people was highly significant that showed deep respect for Sheikh Saad's status and role in the Arab world. That recognition was voiced by Reagan in the farewell statement

following Sheikh Saad's talks at the White House on Tuesday.

Although Secretary of State George Shultz had spoken of the "legitimate political aspirations" of the Palestinians on his last visit to the region, the President of the United States had never acknowledged these rights publicly from the White House.

The Crown Prince also capitalised on his visit to personally and publicly thank the Reagan administration for the US role in ensuring the freedom of navigation in the international waters of the Arabian Gulf and to stress the fact that the multinational operation has been successful.

Multilateral

The visit has been widely interpreted in both the American and Arab media as part of Kuwait's consistent multilateral attempt to contact all the members of the Security Council and to seek a solution of the eight-year-old Iran-Iraq conflict through United Nations auspices.

In his meetings with President Reagan, at the State Department, the Pentagon, and the US Congress, Sheikh Saad prodded the Reagan administration to

work more actively and to exploit the current situation in the Arabian Gulf region to find a diplomatic solution of the Iran-Iraq war.

American officials said that as a direct result of Sheikh Saad's talks here, the United States is now expected to step up its efforts to find a solution to the conflict at the United Nations.

"Sheikh Saad has reinvigorated the attempts by the US to find a comprehensive settlement of the war," one senior State Department official said.

Focussed

But much of Sheikh Saad's talks equally focused on the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Crown Prince seized every opportunity, in his private and public statements and contacts, to highlight the rights of the Palestinians to self-determination and a homeland.

Equally significant, Sheikh Saad succeeded in establishing personal and high-level contacts with members of the US Congress, outlining frankly the Kuwaiti and Arab points of view on a number of issues — the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Iran-Iraq war, and Kuwait's consistent arms purchase policies.

As a result of Sheikh Saad's talks at the White House,

President Reagan pledged to personally "pitch-in" in an attempt to convince Congress to approve the sale to Kuwait.

Administration officials have expressed optimism that the whole package will now pass through Congress as a result of Sheikh Saad's extensive talks over the last six days and the President's personal involvement.

Sheikh Saad, who was accompanied on his visit by three cabinet ministers, also reaffirmed Kuwait's clear-cut position on the question of terrorism.

Firm

At every meeting, and especially those with the American media, HH the Crown Prince publicly stated the well-known Kuwaiti position that there can never be any deals or any compromises with terrorists. "Kuwait will stand firm," he told the National Press Club of Washington on Wednesday.

HH the Crown Prince made it clear to all those concerned that the proposed \$1.9 billion arms sale to Kuwait must be an "integrated package" that should include all its various components.

As a result of Sheikh Saad's talks at the White House,

Muslims pouring into Saudi Arabia for haj

(Continued from Page 1)

"Saudi Arabia will deal with any spoilers who commit or attempt to commit a crime that would disrupt security, like carrying banners, pictures, explosives, weapons, rioting, sabotage or using loudspeakers," a cabinet statement said.

Saudi Arabia said yesterday that all entry points will be closed from Monday.

Change

Prince Nayef told a news conference in Makkah that that would leave no time for Iranian authorities to change their minds and allow Iranian pilgrims to perform the haj.

Most Muslim nations in Asia, Africa, and Europe have accepted quotas set by the Saudi authorities limiting pilgrims to one in every 1,000 Muslims in a country's population.

An official statement yesterday said 685,487 pilgrims had

already arrived in the kingdom, compared to some 900,000 who came from outside Saudi Arabia last year.

The Saudi government has also called upon residents who have already performed the haj to forego the pilgrimage this year, in an additional bid to cut numbers.

Almost one million Saudi and non-Saudi residents of the kingdom took part last year boosting pilgrim numbers to almost two million.

Performing the pilgrimage is one of five religious obligations for all Muslims.

The pilgrims leave most of their possessions behind and dress in simple white cotton robes.

They chant only one slogan. "Labbalik, Allahumma, labbalik... la shareekalak" (I have answered your call, oh God, here I am. There is no God but You...)

Probe into Iranian Airbus downing

Investigators take a look at radar signals

WASHINGTON, July 17. (AP): Defense Department investigators will be taking a close look at whether the USS Vincennes detected radar signals emanating from the Iran A300 Airbus that it mistook for an F-14 fighter and shot it down, military and industry sources say.

Publicly available evidence suggests that the Airbus was not using its weather or navigational radar, which send out different signals than radar aboard an F-14 and could easily have been distinguished by equipment other than the Vincennes, according to Pentagon officials.

"If an F-14 is using its target acquisition radar, it is a very specific signal, and one which you can easily identify," Pentagon spokesman Dan Howard told reporters on July 5, two days after the incident.

Illumination

Pentagon and industry sources said it would be common practice for either an attacking F-14 or an Airbus making the 175-mile (282-kilometre) run in clear weather between Bandar Abbas, Iran, and Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates, not to turn on its radar.

"The Iranians know... when they paint something with their target illumination radar, that we can detect it and we can identify the target very specifically from that information," Howard said.

The absence of a radar signal, therefore, would tell the Vincennes' officers nothing about the approaching plane, but any radar signal originating from the Iranian aircraft should have identified it as civilian or military.

A computer analysis of elec-

tronic data from the Vincennes has been conducted in the United States and flown to Bahrain, in the Gulf, where a six-member team headed by Rear Adm. William M. Fogarty is investigating the incident.

Pentagon officials have declined to discuss information uncovered by Fogarty, including whether the Iranian aircraft was sending out radar signals.

A device known as a transponder aboard the Airbus was sending one set of identification signals common to civilian and military aircraft, as well as a signal unique to warplanes, Howard said.

Howard, in briefing reporters, said he did not know "what the SLQ-32 was saying" aboard the Vincennes. "All that stuff is on the tape and will presumably be examined by the inquiry."

Meanwhile, the chairman of the joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. William J. Crowe Jr., said it was impossible for a ship to use its own radar to precisely identify an approaching aircraft, a view shared by Navy and industry officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The issue of whether the Airbus was emitting radar signals is quite different, however, and the answer is not likely to be known publicly until the results of the Fogarty investigation are released, something that Navy officials now say they do not expect until early or mid-August.

Different

The Vincennes, and many other US warships in the Gulf, are equipped with a device known as a SLQ-32, which can distinguish the "signatures" of radars. Radars that are used by commercial airliners are quite different from those used by military aircraft.

The exact differences are classified, industry and Navy sources said, but generally military radars are far more powerful.

operate on different frequencies, radiate farther, and "ping" objects more frequently with radio waves than do commercial radars, they said.

The US-manufactured SLQ-32 can be programmed to distinguish the "signatures" of various types of radar. And one Navy source said even if the device were not programmed to make that distinction, a skilled operator could tell the difference anyway.

Howard, in briefing reporters, said he did not know "what the SLQ-32 was saying" aboard the Vincennes. "All that stuff is on the tape and will presumably be examined by the inquiry."

Meanwhile, Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock said today that the US decision to compensate relatives of the Airbus victims has helped soften Iranian anger over the incident.

Course in dress design

KUWAIT Zakat House held a graduation ceremony for women who recently completed a course in dress design and tailoring organised by the Authority of Applied Education and Training as a favour to Zakat House.

The ceremony was attended by the deputy director of the authority, Humoud Al Mudaf and the deputy director of Zakat House, Abdul-Qader Al Ajeeb.

In a speech during the ceremony, Al Ajeeb stressed that Islam encouraged Muslims to work and to be productive and added that Zakat House had decided to make a move to equip needy Kuwaiti families with skills to enable them to become more self-sufficient and obtain their incomes through means other than assistance from charitable establishments.

A large tailoring workshop will be established to offer work to trained families and the items they produce will go to meet the needs of many ministries which have special uniforms for their staff, such as the Ministries of Health and Education.

Al Ajeeb and Al Mudaf distributed certificates to 47 women who successfully completed the course. The audience then toured an exhibition of articles made by members of the course.

Meanwhile, Gholum Al Attar, the director of social services and further education at the Public Authority of Applied Education and Training, has said that further such courses will be offered by the authority, in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour and other relevant authorities.

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Traffic signals not a hindrance

AN authoritative source at Kuwait's General Traffic Department denied that the traffic signals constituted a hindrance to traffic movement.

On Saturday, all pilgrims assemble at the slopes of Mount Arafat, where a ceremony on Saturday marks the emotional climax of the pilgrimage. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) made his last sermon on Mount Arafat.

Pilgrims then head into the nearby town of Muzdalifa to collect 49 stones, used to pelt three monuments representing the devil in the town of Mina, near Makkah.

They pelt the devil with seven stones, sacrifice sheep, cows and goats by the light of the rising sun on the first day of the feast of sacrifice (Eid Al Adha) on Sunday. They then proceed to Mina for a final circuit of the Kaaba and return to Mina.

Over the next two days they continue to pray and pelt the devil with the remaining 42 stones.

In an interview with a local daily, the source said that the signals were working in accordance with specific time schedules based on traffic movement in the ring roads.

He disclosed that there were four timing programmes for the commissioning of automatic traffic signals. The first began at 6.00 am to 8.30 am, the second from 8.30 am to 11.30 am, the third from 11.30 am to 12.30 pm and the fourth from 9.00 pm to 6.00 am.

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Call to form military consultative body

THE Dean of the College of Technological Studies Dr Yaqoub Al Obaid underscored the importance of forming a military consultative body in Kuwait and the rest of the GCC states.

The official said that this body would evaluate existing military equipments and expertise and analyse various military requirements.

He added that a cadre of well-skilled technicians should be formed to provide maintenance services and special motivation was essential to urge such personnel to continually upgrade their performance.

Al Obaid called for optimum utilisation of talented youths and highlighted the need for building a solid military base comprising professional and highly skilled technicians due to the delicate nature of this vital sector and its bearing on national security.

He concluded by stating "the government should reduce its dependence on international experts."

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INDIAN FILM REVIEWS

Sugar-coating the real issue

By Fathima Ahmed

THE love story is an integral part of Indian films. Nearly all Hindi films harp on love. But the content of romantic cinema circles around the formula of "rich boy overcomes obstacles to win his fair lady" theme. What rekindled interest in celluloid romance is a movie called *Hamara Khandan* (the title gives the impression of a family social) a product of the Tahir Hussain film factory.

In *Hamara Khandan*, as in other forgettable romances, the filmmakers stick to a sugar-coated formula with a social message. There were a few exceptional romantic films like *Mughal-e-Azam*, *Bobby*, *Ek Duje Ke Liye*, *Love Story* and the more recent *Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak*. The makers of these films, sold dreams draped in passion, fantasy, and glamour. Except *Bobby* and *Love Story*, the others ended in tragedy.

The greatest tragic love story of all time in Indian cinema was undoubtedly *Mughal-e-Azam*, K. Asif's block buster about the love of a prince, (Jahangir) played by Dilip Kumar, for an ordinary girl (Madhubala). Madhubala was certainly no ordinary woman. A stunning beauty, she was one of the most alluring, seductive women of the Indian cinema. The film, which took 15 years to make was spruced up by lavish sets.

Love suffers: Rita (Farha) in *Hamara Khandan*

costumes and the presence of such actors as Dilip and Prithviraj Kapoor. A classic, it is an ageless romance, poetic, lyrical and beautiful.

Romance was also appealing in *Ek Duje Ke Liye*. Love was pure, untainted, innocent and breezy, and touching, in the story of a bumbling Madras (played by Kamal Hassan) and a bubbling Punjabi girl (Rati Agnihotri). The couple face parental opposition and their love is doomed. The film also had some good musical numbers.

The more recent *Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak*, a teenage love-story, starring Amit Khan and Juhi Chawla, followed in the footsteps of legendary romances like *Romeo and Juliet* or the more Indian *Heer Ranjha*.

In *Qayamat* neither romance nor the tragedy seemed forced and flowed smoothly.

No matter how many times one watches such films, they seem fresh, appealing and enticing, and seem infectious. Not, *Hamara Khandan*, though. This romance is churlish, childish, misleading and carries the burden of conveying a heavy social message. When a "social message is involved", the script tends to become didactic, slips from the main theme and the sub-plot takes over.

Director Anwar Pasha can't hold the film together, despite the initial euphoria of romance. Thus, *Hamara Khandan* hoodwinks you into believing it is the "story of every household in

Vicky (Rishi Kapoor) and Rita (Farha) romancing in *Hamara Khandan*.

India" as the advertising posters proclaim. Now, if this were true, every parent would be an ogre like Sethji (Amrish Puri) and every starry-eyed individual — girl or boy — would carry his/her heart on the palm. Thankfully this is not so and most sensible people have their hearts in the right place. Vicky (Rishi Kapoor) and Rita (Farha) are not so lucky.

Vicky is a love-lorn guy, pushy, emotional and persistent. Rita can't control her emotions when he sends her a letter and stands under her window, displaying, menacingly, a poison bottle (one suspects poison is cheap) with an ultimatum: come to me or else ... she doesn't.

Vicky commits suicide. Guess what?

Vicky plonks to the ground, Rita rushes out and falls into his arms — and as they are in an ideally romantic location — Kashmir, they romp in the snow and dance around the trees. Romance blossoms. Wow!

Now, we spy a fly in the soup. Vicky's father grunts and growls like a tiger on the prowl, muttering something about "hamare khandan ki reet" (the long standing tradition of the family) about obedience to parental authority. He wants to "buy" his son's freedom, blackmails the girl's father, even tries to get rid of Rita. Nothing works. The director won't let it. He has bigger, not better,

things on his mind, like exposing the Indian obsession for a male heir. This calls for a monologue by the long-suffering woman, Vicky's mother (played by the 1960s heroine Asha Parekh). "Science has proven that the man (pointing significantly toward her husband) is responsible for the sex of the child. Why should women be blamed?" she moans. "Now, we (Indians) are using science to get rid of unborn female foetuses," she complains. Tch! Tch! At this point, Khandan becomes the story of a majority of households in India. Producer Tahir Hussain appeals for an end to female foeticide (as it has been dubbed by the Indian press when the number of abortions doubled after the introduction of sonar tests to determine the sex of the foetus). Well, Hussain could have said this without resorting to complex, misleading romance. But then, Hindi cinema tends to admit social injustices but sugar-coats the real issue in well, this time, romance. And, love circles ... A better idea would be to review the romantic classics.

The above films are by courtesy of Athari Video, Main St., Farwaniya. Tel: 4729000.

Rati Agnihotri and Kamal Hassan starred in *Ek Duje Ke Liye*.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

German Painting Exhibition

An exhibition of German paintings at the Kuwait Hilton Hotel, open daily until July 20. More than 30 paintings, representing the work of a group of German artists known as The Blue Rider, will be shown in the Hilton's lobby. The show has been organised by the German Embassy in Kuwait.

Tareeq Rajab Museum

The museum in Jabriya houses a collection of Islamic arts, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world. Summer timings are 9 am to 12 noon and 4 to 7 pm, Sat. thru Thurs. On Friday the museum is open only in the mornings.

Islamic Arts Museum

The museum, located on Arab Gulf Street, is open from 8.30 am to 12.30 noon and 4.30 to 7.30 pm, Saturday to Thursday. A collection of the finest Islamic art objects are on show.

SOCIAL

German-speaking Cultural Association

The regular coffee mornings for ladies will continue on a small scale during the summer months. Coffee mornings will be held on Sunday, August 7 at Kuwait Hilton's La Patisserie from 10 am on those days. All German-speaking women are welcome.

Summer Belle 88

The United Goans Centre will hold their annual Summer Belle 88 contest on August 11 at the SAS Hotel's The Tent. The gala event marks the 10th anniversary of UGC. Entertainment includes music by Stepping Stones and City Limits. For further details contact Tony Gonsalves — 2612024 or Joe Fernandes 5655140.

Y.M.C.A. The Y.M.C.A. will present the "Come September Ball" at the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel on September 1. Highlights include the selection of the Queen of Queens. Top Ranks will be in attendance.

D'Assisi Association

The association will hold a social evening-cum-variety show on August 11 at Messiah Beach Hotel. The event is part of the 40th anniversary of Indian independence. Top Ranks and Next of Kin will be in attendance. For details contact Leena — 2469811, 9.30 am to 5 pm; Henry 3291909 (am), 3717546 (pm) or Augustus 5746754, after 6 pm.

Onam Festival

The Viswabharathi Theatres, Abbasia, will celebrate Onam on Aug 25 at the Indian Arts Circle. IAC President M. Mathews will be the chief patron. The programme comprises Onam songs, Mohiniyattam, classical dances, Thiruvathirakkali, folk dances, light music, one-act play, boat race and Kerala rural arts. Those interested in taking part contact Lazar Varghese — 4314511; Thomas Pereumpilly — 4810490 ext. 207; Varghese Paradyal — 2422973.

HOTELS

At the Meridien La Brasserie, open from 12 noon to 4 pm, offers breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Beat the summer heat with cool juices offered in the lobby lounge; musical entertainment is provided in the evenings.

At the Continental

The Gardenia, open from 7 am to midnight, offers dinner buffet on Thursdays; the buffet features grilled specialities. The Friday lunch features Indian, Arab and Continental cuisine.

The Darbar offers an Indian buffet lunch daily except Fridays and a la carte for diners.

The Patisserie, open from 7 am to 11 pm, offers breakfast, lunch and dinner.

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At the Meridien

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

MONEY is like a sixth sense without which you cannot make a complete use of the other five — W. Somerset Maugham, English writer (1874-1965).

Dalai Lama's dream: semi-autonomy for Tibet

By Steve Tuennmler

DHARAMSALA, India, (UPI): Beijing's blunt rejection of the Dalai Lama's semi-autonomy plan for Tibet has not thwarted the self-exiled god-king, who will forge ahead with his aim of diluting China's influence in the strategic Himalayan region.

The spiritual leader and his senior political advisers said they planned to mobilize world opinion to compel China to allow the Tibetans to administer the remote mountainous area as a democratic "zone of peace."

"The majority of Tibetan people do not want to live under Chinese domination," the Dalai Lama said last week in Dharamsala, 210 miles (338 km) north of New Delhi. "But if we just insist on complete independence, that is also not realistic."

The Dalai Lama proposed on June 15 that China relinquish control over Tibet except for foreign affairs and, for a limited period, defence.

Rejecting

China responded by flatly rejecting "any form of independence" for Tibet, but said the spiritual leader of 6 million Tibetans is welcome to visit Beijing provided he does not discuss complete self-rule for the region.

Analysts remained skeptical Beijing would bargin away its control of Tibet, which comprises 25 per cent of China's land mass and is strategically crucial because it borders India, with China has a long-standing frontier dispute.

"China thinks Tibet is a very important strategic area and more autonomy may lead to further demands and problems," said Sujit Dutta of New Delhi's Institute for Defence Studies.

Officials of the Dalai Lama's government-in-exile said they would soon propose talks with Beijing. If these yielded substantive concessions, the Dalai Lama would visit China for his first direct dealings with the super-power since he fled Lhasa during a 1959 general revolt, they said.

Reaction

"We were expecting the Chinese might show an initial negative reaction," the Dalai Lama said. "However, we believe eventually there can be some dialogue and negotiation."

Lodi Gyari, a minister in the emigre government who has twice led delegations to Beijing, said the Tibetans would not initially discuss demands related

to the nettlesome subject of sovereignty.

Instead, he said they would try to negotiate an end to the "colonization" of Tibet with ethnic Chinese, and an agreement to allow Tibetans to choose local authorities and create democratic institutions.

"We are willing to stay together with China, but we are not willing to accept the Chinese as masters," Gyari said. Under this plan "the Chinese can stay within the family."

The Dalai Lama said China could keep defense installations along border areas, but said a long-term military presence would become unnecessary because he would declare Tibet a nuclear-free zone and a "holiday resort."

Analysts said the Tibetans' best hope is to appeal to liberal factions within the Chinese government who are staging sweeping economic reforms and presenting a more benign image to the world.

They said Taiwan will be watching very closely how China deals with Tibet given Beijing's recent proposal that Taipei, like the British colony of Hong Kong, be reunited with the mainland under the concept of "one country, two systems."

Negotiate

"China's willingness to negotiate almost totally depends on international pressure," Dutta said. "China is susceptible because it has so much at stake."

Tibetan officials said they need the West to be more strident in condemning human rights abuses by the Chinese against Tibetans, mostly during riots that have flared sporadically in Lhasa since September.

"This (semi-autonomy) proposal should be given back so that democracy can spread into China," Gyari said. "There is a group of quite enlightened leaders in China who do want to bring about changes."

But before the Dalai Lama can sell the plan to China, he must first convince many Tibetans to give up their dream of independence.

The maroon-robed monk admitted he had received many protests against the plan from members of the 100,000-strong exile community. Lhabsang Tsering, Tibetan Youth Congress president, recently declared "nobody has the right to give up the struggle for Tibetan independence."

Venezuelan politics

Leftists mustering grass roots support

By Carrie Figdor

CARACAS, Venezuela, (AP): Venezuela's left, a feeble third force in a democracy dominated by two centrist parties, is gambling for its survival with an electoral strategy aimed at the grass roots level.

In response to the electorate's disenchantment with a system that rewards party line bureaucrats with almost lifetime official tenure, they are knocking at factory gates and promoting homegrown politicians for seats in the national and state legislatures.

With no hope for wresting the powerful presidency from Accion Democratica (AD) or Copei, the left is betting it can piece together a greater share of power by wooing minor posts away from the big parties.

"The political system is showing its vulnerabilities in the old corrupt men in the party bureaucracies. Thirty years have passed, they've worked in a political system that hasn't changed, and they have no desire to change. These men can be challenged," said Teodoro Petkoff, the 1960's guerrilla leader-turned-Congressman, in an interview with the Associated Press.

Petkoff represents the Movement to Socialism (MAS), Venezuela's biggest leftist party.

Supporting

MAS, along with the Revolutionary Left Movement (MIR), is supporting Petkoff for president even though he is not expected to win more than around 7 per cent of the vote, far behind AD's Carlos Andres Perez, the expected winner, and Copei's Eduardo Fernandez, the main challenger.

But even Petkoff, who admits

his candidacy is just "to be in the game," says MAS is putting its weight behind its legislative candidates, who have earned the recognition of voters through political action in their states.

The MAS-MIR combination now has 12 representatives and two senators in the bi-cameral National Congress of 182 representatives and 42 senators.

This year, they presented to the press 60 candidates to the National Congress from 15 states, two federal territories and the Caracas federal district. It does not have candidates in eight states.

"Now voters will know who their ballot stands for, and who the men and women are that will represent them," Petkoff said.

Dissatisfaction

The same sense of voter dissatisfaction has inspired a new leftist movement, Causa R (for grass roots), to launch a similar, grass roots attack on the main-stream labour sector.

Causa R, like MAS, is running a presidential candidate with no hope of winning? Andres Velasquez, a round 34-year-old steelworker from Guayana, the heavy industrial centre of eastern Venezuela.

The movement controls the union at the state steelmaker Siderurgica del Orinoco-Sidor, and has made inroads into the unions of other heavy industries in Guayana and other industrial cities.

But unlike MAS, its main target is the Venezuelan Workers Confederation (CTV), an AD-dominated organization upon which much of AD's traditional political dominance rests.

While it is running candidates for the December legislative elections, the movement's real aim is to mobilize the political support gained in December to win a spot on the CTV's executive committee in the confederation's internal elections next year.

But even Petkoff, who admits

Ship attack tests Greek counter-terrorism stance

By Kerin Hope

ATHENS, Greece, (AP): The terrorist massacre this month aboard a Greek cruise ship has given Greece a new opportunity to take a tough line toward terrorism.

Over the past decade, a series of assassinations and bomb attacks in Greece have made some diplomats and businessmen question Greece's resolve to battle terrorist attacks. Greeks, Americans, and Arabs have among the victims.

Greek police have conducted some counter-terrorism training with British and American security experts. But they never have arrested any member of the two leading local terrorist groups.

One of the left-wing groups, called November 17, claims 13 political assassinations since 1975, including the deaths of three American diplomats. The other, Revolutionary Popular Struggle, is responsible for several hundred bomb explosions but no deaths.

The massacre July 11 by gun-

men aboard the cruise ship City of Poros left nine people dead and 98 injured, the highest casualty toll of any recent terrorist incident. The socialist government lost no time resolving to act tough against terrorists.

Confront

"We intend to do whatever is necessary to effectively confront this scourge," Premier Andreas Papandreou declared after the attack.

"I think the only way to face it is through international cooperation, since terrorism isn't a national phenomenon. It's an international one."

Greek authorities believe the City of Poros attackers hoped to hijack the ship and its 471 passengers to force the release of a Palestinian, Mohammed Rashid, awaiting trial here.

Rashid was arrested on charges of entering Greece on a false passport, an act that itself appeared to be a sign of a toughening Greek attitude toward terrorism. Rashid is wanted in the United States for allegedly planting a bomb on a Pan Am

plane that killed one person and injured 15 others.

After the City of Poros attack, the Justice Ministry ordered an immediate trial for Rashid. He was jailed for seven months as a result, opening the way for possible extradition to the United States.

Charges

In the past, Greece has been criticized by its Western allies for failing to bring charges against suspected terrorists operating here.

In 1984, the government had freed a Palestinian suspected of trying to blow up an Israeli jetliner with a sophisticated suitcase bomb, saying there was insufficient evidence against him.

One year ago, the United States accused the Socialists of making deals with terrorists, allowing them free movement around Greece in return for not staging attacks on Greek soil.

Soon afterward, an Arab-run business in Athens that Western intelligence officials said was a front for the Abu Nidal organi-

zation was shut down. The group was accused of killing a Palestinian journalist in Athens in 1985.

An Abu Nidal member identified as Abdel Ossama Al Zomor has been jailed in Greece since 1982. He is awaiting extradition to Italy for allegedly planning the attack on the Rome synagogue in 1982 that killed a small child.

Implicated

Over the years, members of other Palestinian factions like Black September and May 15 also have been implicated in attacks in Greece. But there have been few arrests.

After the cruise ship attack, the Papandreou government moved swiftly to demonstrate its new counter-terrorism policy.

While stressing that Greece still supports the Palestinian cause, the government made it clear that terrorists should stay away.

"We condemn every attempt to use our peaceful and calm country as an area to resolve differences between various fac-

tions ... these are very serious cases of abuse of hospitality and democratic freedom," said government spokesman Sotiris Kostopoulos.

"Our country has allowed entry of all sorts of people from the Third World who settle their differences on Greek territory," Nicolas Kostakis, a parliament member from the main right-wing New Democracy Party, said in a debate this week.

Attacks

The conservatives also have claimed that terrorist attacks were not solved because the perpetrators were protected because of links with members of Papandreou's ruling Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK).

PASOK grew out of the PAK, a left-wing resistance movement founded by Papandreou to fight the 1967-74 military dictatorship in Greece. Some of its members trained in PLO camps in the early 1970s.

Several former PAK activists now hold high positions in the Socialist government.

One of Sifis Valyrakis, the

current undersecretary for public order, the ministry who handles counter-terrorism, who was investigated by a previous conservative government on suspicion of belonging to November 17.

But Western diplomats say some of the blame for the government's failure to smash November 17 may be old-fashioned police methods and a lack of counter-terrorism expertise.

November 17, which seeks closure of the American bases here and Greece, withdrawal from NATO, is named for the day in 1973 that troops crushed a student rebellion against the dictatorship.

The group claimed last month's killing of US Navy captain William E. Nordeen, the military attaché at the American embassy, in a car-bomb explosion as he was driving to work.

It emerged in 1975 with the assassination of Richard Welch, the CIA station chief in Greece, and has since claimed the killings of several Greek businesspeople, publishers and police officers.

Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan

A new period of tension likely in Indian subcontinent

By Hugh Paine

KABUL, (UPI): The Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan may herald a new period of tension in the Indian subcontinent.

The conflicting Indian and Pakistani positions on Afghanistan will make the next few months particularly bitter — I foresee a bad patch for Indo-Pakistani relations," predicted a Western diplomat in New Delhi.

"South Asia's destiny revolves around Islamabad and New Delhi, and not Kabul," said Pakistani political commentator Ikrumullah, adding that Islamabad save its long-term security and defence at stake in the outcome of the conflict in Afghanistan.

Since the Soviet intervention in December 1979, the equation has been basically simple.

Pakistan, seeing a threat on its northern border, bitterly opposed the Soviet presence and permitted its territory to be used not only by some three million Afghan refugees but also by the disparate mujahideen rebel groups fighting the Russians.

More significantly, it was the main channel for US arms for the mujahideen. And although that channel was meant to dry up at last month's Geneva accords, reports from Peshawar say it is still flowing.

India, on the other hand, never criticised the action of its Soviet friends and maintained close

relations with the Soviet-installed government in Kabul.

As the Soviet Union disengages, the regional rivalry is thrown into sharper relief.

India invited President Nejibullah to Delhi last month — the first non-Soviet bloc country to do so — thus firmly lining up beside him on the world's stage and incurring the wrath of Pakistan.

A Western analyst saw this as a shrewd move. If Nejibullah remains in power India will have a firm friend and will also have cemented ties with the Soviet Union. If on the other hand a mujahideen government takes power, it is certain to line up alongside Pakistan, so India has nothing to lose.

Surprise

I.P. Khosla, Indian ambassador to Kabul, professed surprise at the Pakistani reaction to Nejibullah's Delhi trip.

"We were a little puzzled that the Pakistanis were so angry," he said. "We consider that Afghanistan is very much part of South Asia."

A Western diplomat saw Pakistan as "increasingly paranoid" about Indian intentions and fearing being squeezed between a hostile India and a hostile Afghanistan, with an unpredictable Iran on its western border.

For Islamabad, an Islamic mujahideen government in Kabul would be its most valuable prize in 40 years in countering Indian dominance in the subcontinent, he said. And the mu-

jaahideen have confirmed that they view Pakistan as a natural ally.

"Of course we see no role for India. Instead of making up for past mistakes Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi is going deeper into the political quagmire," said an official of the Jamiat-e-Islami rebel group in Peshawar, referring to the invitation to Nejibullah extended to Nejibullah.

Jitteriness

The prospect of this solid anti-Indian bloc in South Asia, said a diplomat, had produced "increasing Indian jitteriness over all things Pakistani."

India would try to ensure Nejibullah survived in power, he said, by championing him in international forums like the Non-Aligned Movement.

Ambassador Khosla discounted but said India would certainly continue to lobby against the influx of US arms and Pakistan's nuclear programme.

One Western diplomat put it more bluntly: "India will stir it up in Washington over why US arms supplies are continuing and will try to mobilise the non-proliferation lobby in Congress."

Pakistan, on the other hand, will want to keep India firmly out of the battle for Afghanistan.

Despite the departure of the Russians, the battle is far from over for Afghanistan or for South Asia as a whole.

In the words of the New Delhi diplomat: "There are all the ingredients for quite a hot summer."

Yugoslav Army puts journalists on trial

the three journalists' trial as a crackdown on free and independent news media. They accuse conservatives in the Yugoslav leaders of trying to quell liberalization in Slovenia.

Defend

Not one "political crime" has been prosecuted in Slovenian courts in a year, even though a number of people have been sentenced for such crimes elsewhere in Yugoslavia. Outside Slovenia, newspapers have been banned on charges of "hostile propaganda" offenses such as "insulting" the prime minister or articulating local authorities considered "hostile" to the regime.

Some Slovenian restaurants have signs saying "We do not serve soldiers," and slogans have appeared on the northern republic's walls saying "Southerners, go home from."

TODAY IN HISTORY

64 — Great fire of Rome

World Bank withholds funds

By Jan Rocha

FIFTEEN million Brazilians have no birth certificate. Legally they do not exist. They cannot be registered at a health post as babies, they cannot go to school, they cannot get married when they grow up.

Their parents could not afford to pay the price—about £3—demanded by the registry offices, which are all privately owned. Owning a registry office is a sure way to become a millionaire in Brazil and until Congress ended the privilege this week, they passed from father to son.

Unregistered and unshoed, many of these children will end up in institutional care, abandoned or delinquent. "Out of every 100 children who arrive here, 70 have no birth certificate," said the director of Rio de Janeiro's child welfare department.

In contrast, almost 50 per cent of the places at Brazil's free state universities are occupied by students from families with above-average incomes.

Distorted

A report prepared for UNICEF by two professors at the economics faculty of Sao Paulo University describes the situation: "What exists in Brazil is a highly distorted social policy with minimal humanitarian criteria."

The state spends a considerable portion of the GNP, about 20 per cent, on the social sector, but this enormous sum of money is unequally distributed. The social programmes run by the government rarely benefit the poorest and often favour more the middle class or even the rich...

As a result, while Brazil is

Brazil is sixth among world arms exporters but it is 68th in the infant mortality league, behind much smaller and poorer countries. A survey indicates that two-thirds of the population do not get enough to eat and the authorities have been accused of inefficiency and corruption.

among the top 10 world economies, "large segments of absolute misery proliferate and per capita income is still low."

Brazil is the sixth world arms exporter, and sells training planes to the RAF, but it is 68th in the infant mortality league, behind much smaller and poorer countries. Two-thirds of the population do not get enough to eat, according to a government survey.

There are several reasons why Brazil's social programmes make little impact on poverty and hunger. A World Bank report found that inefficiency was caused by maladministration, excessive bureaucracy and the interference of political criteria in the distribution of funds. Up to 135 signatures may be needed before a grant from a federal agency to a small town is cleared.

To simplify the process would mean people giving up the chance to show their political influence—and nobody wants to lose influence," a government official said.

An attempt was made during the government of the last military president, General Joao Figueiredo, to do away with bureaucracy. A "ministry of de-bureaucracy" was set up to cut out red tape, but did not last long.

Inflation, currently running at 600 per cent a year, will have devalued the grant by the time it reaches its destination. Administration costs take up to 67 per cent of the money for education in the north-east, Brazil's poorest region.

Brazilian school systems generally spend a high share of their budgets on teachers' salaries, but many of these trained teachers are never used for teaching," the World Bank report said.

It also mentioned the "ghost" teachers—political proteges who figure on the payroll but never dirty their hands with chalk. In the northeast, more than half of those who do teach have not finished primary school themselves.

In health, the main problem is the relegation of preventive medicine, which gets only 15 per cent of the budget, while hospital-based, doctor-controlled, curative medicine gets 85 per cent.

The sum of these distorted social policies is that a population which already has one of the highest income concentrations in the world—7 per cent taking 40 per cent of national income, while 67 per cent get only 20 per cent—also misses



Children of the storm ... Brazilian youngsters held in one of Brazil's temporary interment centres while charges against them are investigated.

Middle East water problems by 2000

By Linda Feldmann

Serious water shortages and contamination in many Middle Eastern nations could bring upheaval throughout the region.

ment of advanced water technologies.

The programme would bring to the US American and Mideast specialists for joint study on pollution control, water reuse, farming, and solar energy.

The second proposal has two hitches: politics and money. Getting Arabs and Israelis to work together is always a problem.

Joyce Starr, co-author of the study, hopes that by basing the programme in the United States, specialists from belligerent nations can work together out of the political limelight. And if they are really not willing, they can at least share information by computer, she says. In November 1986, the CSIS managed to get Arab and Israeli government officials together for a conference on water—a meeting so sensitive that it was not publicised until two weeks after it took place and the names of the Arab officials were not disclosed. Syria would not attend because Israel was there.

Some nations are looking ahead and acting.

Turkey, for example, is proposing to share its abundance of water by constructing a multinational "peace pipeline," though the projected cost of \$20 billion may prove prohibitive. The United States is already engaged in dozens of projects, but it needs to coordinate these efforts better, the study says. Although diplomatic initiatives should be continued at all costs, technological advances are likely to bring quicker results.

The study proposes that the US government:

Set up a coordinating body for all its Mideast water programmes.

Such a body would serve as a clearinghouse for information and could ultimately reduce costs by making US efforts more efficient.

Create a US-Mideast water programme to spur develop-

ment of advanced water technologies.

The money issue hinges on the US Congress. CSIS proposes that the US foot the estimated \$10 billion bill for the first three years of the programme. This is a trifling amount, Starr says, when one considers the cost of emergency relief for the millions of people who will starve if the water situation reaches crisis proportions.

But Congress is in the business of cutting costs these days, not adding them. And in discussions with congressmen on the issue, Starr has been discouraged.

"We found almost no members of Congress aware of or interested in the problem," she says.

Where risks are highest

"Ironically, those from states with their own water problems (i.e., the Southwest) seemed least interested in helping with the Middle East situation. They say they can't worry about other people's water problems when their own are so pressing."

Starr and her colleagues are planning a campaign to increase awareness in Congress.

Although fresh-water supply is a major issue for most of the

Middle East, the outlook for Egypt, Jordan, the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Syria, and Iraq is particularly serious.

Almost all major water sources in the Mideast are used by more than one nation, which heightens the potential for conflict. Collaboration is rare.

Some highlights of the Mideast water problem:

— Egypt: With its burgeoning population and almost sole reliance on the Nile for water, could be facing a crisis by the year 2000.

— Jordan: By 2000, need may exceed supply by 20 per cent. The upper Jordan River is already fully developed. May face conflict with Syria over its development plans.

— West Bank: Main water potential is fully exploited, with Israel getting 95 per cent of it, according to the West Bank Data Project.

— Gaza Strip: Serious contamination of water supplies. Aquifers overpumped. New sewage systems would cost \$16 million, which Israel is unlikely to provide.

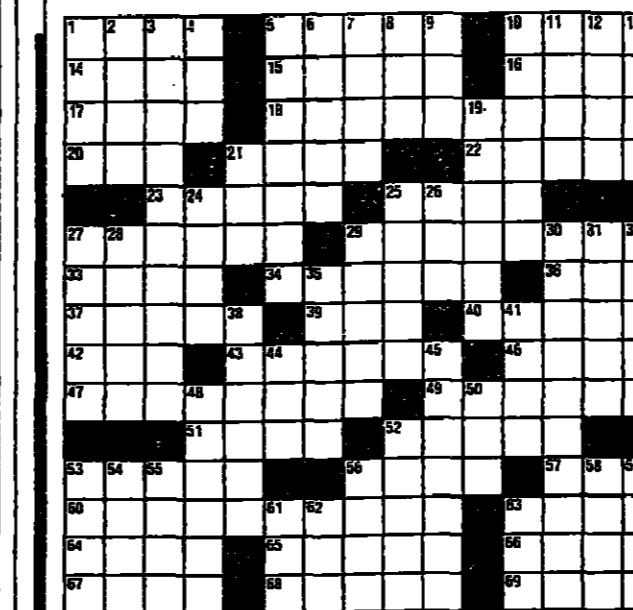
— Syria: Shortages mounting, even in major cities. Syrian development of upper Yarmuk River could end up reducing Jordanian water supplies, if terms of recent agreement with Jordan are not observed. The two nations have agreed to construct a dam that would benefit both.

— Iraq: Gulf war has slowed development.

Pollution from upstream development on Tigris and Euphrates Rivers is biggest problem.

1988, The Christian Science Monitor.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

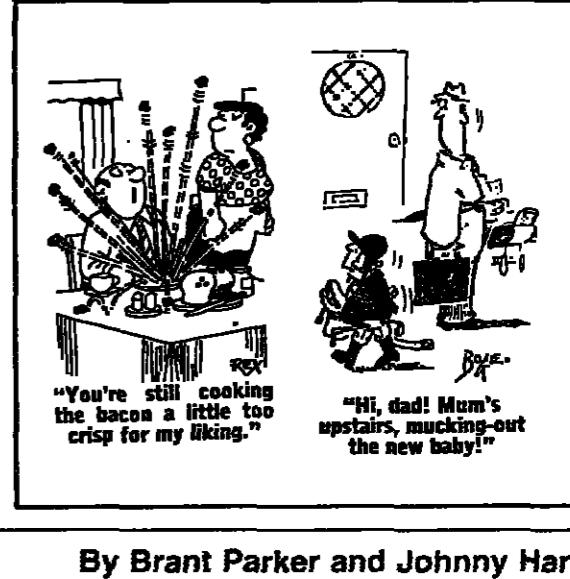
- 1 Hence
- 5 Palindromic title
- 10 "I never — purple cow..."
- 14 Glaciarium
- 15 Mirror reflection
- 16 Bankroll items
- 17 Tense
- 18 In fine fashion
- 20 Indian weight
- 21 Archipelago unit
- 22 In a huff
- 23 Ease
- 25 Kitchen spice
- 27 Secret
- 33 Disinformation
- 34 Leap
- 35 Colorless gas:
- 37 Proposal
- 39 Gambler's cube
- 40 Playboys of yore
- 42 Widespread ailment
- 43 Decrees
- 45 An Officer and a Gentleman" star
- 46 Part of IRA
- 47 Put on the air
- 48 Carpenter and pottery, e.g.
- 49 Far-flung
- 50 Pursuit
- 51 Power source
- 52 Lined up
- 53 Law, in Paris
- 54 Tit for tat
- 55 Like falling
- 56 Thin porridge
- 57 Shortage
- 58 Fox office buys
- 59 Aquarian prop
- 60 —
- 61 —
- 62 —
- 63 —
- 64 Respecting
- 65 Guy
- 66 Short
- 67 Shortage
- 68 Unfinished
- 69 Vinegar bottle
- 70 Meas. of area
- 71 Gridlinemen, for short
- 72 Mine product
- 73 TV's Vigoda
- 74 —
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- 10 Evening party
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- 12 Doubled edge
- 13 — or seam
- 14 — sow..."
- 15 Bargain
- 16 Actor
- 17 Richardson
- 18 Diamond feature
- 19 Cezanne's contemporary
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- 21 Airborne
- 22 Springfield, for one
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- 24 Mate
- 25 Antilles
- 26 Nest
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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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SKY	WRITING	SANE
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ELATE	AMERICAN	
THE SKY	STHE	LIMIT
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ANTILLES	OAKLEY	
SEER	MUMS	
REELS	DENOTES	
ADZE	SKYSCRAPER	
HIRT	RESE	NERO
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By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart

B.C.



By Johnny Hart

YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 19)



Cancer (June 21 - July 22)



Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)



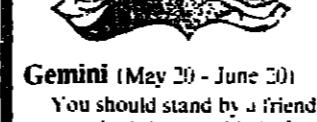
Taurus (April 19 - May 19)



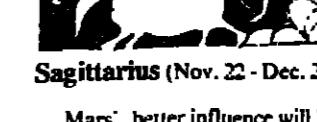
Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)



Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)



Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

You should stand by a friend of yours who is in some kind of trouble. You should avoid making up your mind on the spur of the moment. Venus's less favourable influence means you will have to work harder at your love life. Be more objective.

Mars' better influence will help you to cope with a difficult situation. Do all you can to maintain harmony with your partner. You should not take things quite at their face value. Be tolerant.

You should read the instructions carefully before turning on a new device. You will be better able to distinguish what is important from what is not. Do not take anything for granted just now. Be less solemn.

You will be able to assert yourself but should try not to make others feel resentful. You will not have as much time to spare as you thought you would have. Avoid eating more than you know you should. Be firm.

You will be able to assert yourself but should try not to make others feel resentful. You will not have as much time to spare as you thought you would have. Avoid eating more than you know you should. Be firm.

By Philip Williams

NAIROBI: There were no niceties. The poaching gang killed the young elephant with a rifle and then, with a chain saw, cut off the whole front of the head to get the ivory off fast.

A second dead elephant, riddled with bullets by the same band, was younger still. The skull was no bigger than a basketball and the tusks would have been no thicker than pencils.

British-born naturalist Ian Redmond saw these animals recently in northwest Kenya's Mount Elgon National Park. But the grisly picture is the same all over tropical Africa. "Even the most cautious scientists now recognise that the elephant will become an endangered species if the present offtake of ivory continues," said Nairobi-based elephant specialist Ian Douglas-Hamilton.

Ivory poaching is rift and ruthless, Redmond said. The underfinanced, undermanned, hopelessly ill-equipped ranger staff at Mount Elgon is convinced the poachers even use anti-tank guns to kill elephants quickly.

It is thought there are only 750,000 elephants left in the whole of Africa. Nine years ago there were 1.3 million.

Indiscriminate killing of herds — even tuskless females and juveniles — is reducing the number so fast that on a simple mathematical progression all would be dead before the end of the century.

"If these numbers of elephants continue to be killed, then the species will simply die out," said US-born conservationist Esmond Bradley Martin. "The illegal ivory trade has to be stopped."

About 800 tons of ivory is finding a ready market in the world every year, and more than 50 per cent of it is illegal. Experts say that represents up to 80,000 dead elephants every 12 months, the overwhelming majority killed by poachers in Africa — most in Tanzania, Zambia, Zaire, Mozambique and Kenya.

The big herds in southern Sudan and Uganda have already gone.

Average tusk weights on the market are falling alarmingly, indicating younger and younger elephants are being killed. The average tusk weight was 21 pounds (9.5 kg) in 1978 and was 11.5 pounds (5.2 kg) last year.

Price

Partly in consequence, the price of ivory has hit an all-time high of \$155 a kilogram (2.2 lbs). In 1986 it fetched \$90.

For East Africa, the data would suggest that the elephant



A herd of elephants grazing, oblivious to the threats to their survival.

The vanishing elephant

is already an endangered species," Hamilton said.

"There is no way the East African elephant could sustain over the next 10 years the ivory offtake of the last 10 without going extinct."

Hamilton, who made his name in the 1970s studying elephants in the Lake Manyara reserve in Tanzania, returned there recently for a count.

He found less than 200 of the 500 elephants he counted in 1981. He could not find a single animal over the age of 30, when tusks are mature.

"It is as if an entire generation has been wiped out," he wrote in a report just published and alarmed elephant experts across the world.

Using complex mathematical models, Douglas-Hamilton estimated the number of Kenyan elephants in 1973 at 120,000. By 1977 that was down to 60,000. His latest figure is 20,000 — only half of them in protected areas.

Tanzania, which boasted nearly 200,000 jumbos in 1977, now has less than 50 per cent of that total and is thought to contribute the lion's share of poached ivory for sale.

The ivory trade is complex and is supposedly regulated by a 1986 international agreement signed by almost all the involved countries — the international convention on trade in endangered species (CITES).

CITES allowed 90,000 legal tusks to be traded in 1986 — a figure many conservationists regard as very high but at least a start. Figures for later years

have not yet been compiled.

Almost all legal ivory went to the world's two major carving centres in Hong Kong and Japan, where skilled hands turn it into expensive trinkets, pool and billiard balls, statuettes and piano keys. Smaller amounts go to workshops in China and India.

The illegal trade is now concentrated in the United Arab Emirates, experts say.

The tiny, landlocked Central African state of Burundi was the world centre for ivory smuggling from all its neighbours until a coup in September 1987.

Tanzanian and Kenyan ivory was trucked in, frequently in gasoline tankers which ply between Indian Ocean ports and Burundi and Rwanda. Ivory often flew out of Burundi, where the previous government actually taxed it at \$25 per kilo, via Addis Ababa to Macao and Singapore, where a non-CITES-controlled ivory carving trade flourished.

Macao closed the trade in 1986. Singapore followed suit a year later in a deal with the Swiss-based CITES authorities that legalised 297 tons of mostly poached ivory for sale.

The new Burundi government has now outlawed the illegal trade, putting pressure on East African poachers to find other routes. Container traffic out of Mozambique's Maputo, Tanzanian's Dar Es Salaam and Kenya's Mombasa is certainly carrying poached ivory, experts say, but they are still trying to pin down the small reserve.

routes.

Almost all poached ivory goes to Dubai, which has welcomed on CITES and opened its doors wide following the closure of the illegal trade in the Far East.

Several factories have been established in Dubai, staffed by more than 50 expert carvers from the Far East and toolled up to machine the tusks quickly for perfectly legal exports of the finished product.

Dubai is now also the main world destination for poached rhino horn, conservationists say.

Experts worry that the flourishing business allowed in Dubai puts the whole legal trade and CITES in peril in the absence of international political action to stop it.

"I find it alarming that convention signatories are allowing the UAE to openly trade in ivory and export it when it is known that it is from illegal sources," said one expert.

"The sure sign of trouble is that tusks weights are down. Poachers are literally killing anything," he added.

At the other end of the trade, conservationists are appalled at the inadequate measures taken by cash-strapped East African wildlife departments to stop poaching at source.

Before the privately-funded East African Wildlife Society stepped in to help, warden at Mount Elgon had eight jeeps. Six were off the road needing parts or tyres while 42 poached elephant carcasses littered the small reserve.

Japan's whale trip — research or commerce?

By Anne Collier

TOKYO: Japan's controversial whale-research trip to the Antarctic is over, and the fleet is heading home. But the country's pro-whaling forces do not intend to stop making waves.

The Antarctic expedition that left Japan in December is scheduled to return to Tokyo port late this month, having caught nearly 300 minke whales.

Western conservationists and scientists say the trip's purpose was commercial. But Japanese whaling proponents say the trip was for research. They also say criticism of the expedition is yet another form of Western anti-Japanese sentiment.

"It's becoming a matter of national pride," said Junichiro Okamoto, deputy director of the Japanese Fishery Agency's Deep Sea Fishery Division.

He and other whaling proponents here point to Article 8 of the still-in-effect 1946 International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling. The article says International Whaling Commission (IWC) members are authorised to "kill, take, and treat whales" for scientific-research purposes, and it is up to each member-government to decide on the numbers killed.

Proponents

"We have been upholding the (convention) consistently all along, despite complaints we've had with it, yet other countries still put pressure on us," Mr Okamoto said. "The more the whaling problem becomes a racial or moral issue, the more the Japanese will be unwilling to accept it."

Kiyo Tanahashi, owner of one of Tokyo's six popular restaurants that serve only whalemeat, echoed this sentiment. "Basically, I think this is a kind of prejudice against Japan," he said. Others call this criticism a type of "Japan-bashing."



Dinner at a Tokyo restaurant specialising in whalemeat cuisine. Customers now worry whether whalemeat is going to disappear from restaurants.

One reason so many whaling proponents here have come to this conclusion is because of the wide gulf between Western and Japanese views on whales. Whales are a renewable resource, say Japanese whaling advocates, including the government. Because whalemeat is "part of the national diet" — they want to utilise that resource.

Kunio Arai, chief of the Japan Whaling Association, said the IWC called a moratorium on commercial whaling in 1986 not because, as he put it, whales are beautiful or intelligent, but because more research was needed to determine if the numbers were high enough to continue commercial whaling.

"There was a lack of good information and some bias in research done before the moratorium decision. The bias was because research was done during commercial whaling trips and because only big

whales were caught and researched. So we have to get out of that uncertainty and gather more comprehensive data to know more about the populations," Arai said. The goal, he claimed, is informed population management.

But Hideo Obara, a man-moly professor at Kagawa Nutrition College who is against whaling, says that research done by killing does not lead to population management. Rather, he says, the research done by Japanese scientists in the Antarctic Ocean destabilises the natural population. "It breaks up the groups they travel in and changes their living conditions. The research they're doing is not a population study; it's an industry study for utilisation."

Although he does not go along with Western claims that the Antarctic expedition was a commercial-whaling trip in research disguise, Dr Obara says, "No Japanese thinks that

scientific research is the only purpose of this expedition. The people know that it's for keeping the whaling industry alive.

The Japanese recently announced that they would do some fund raising for Japan's whaling research. The government says it can supply only \$2.8 million of the \$13.6 million budget for research planned for fiscal year 1988. The sale of whalemeat caught during the expedition will bring in \$4 million — not enough to defray the research costs. Another \$6.8 million will be raised from corporations and private individuals.

But the frequently asked question remains: Why do Japanese scientists say they have to kill the whales in order to do their research? They insist that truly reliable data can be obtained only through lethal research.

1988, The Christian Science Monitor.



Chimpanzee expert Dr Jane Goodall with a statue to be copied and sold to raise funds for wildlife.

AIDS research threatens chimpanzees

By Charles Clover

DR JANE GOODALL, the world's leading chimpanzee expert, said recently that demands by American AIDS researchers for thousands of wild chimpanzees for medical experiments could lead to the animal's extinction.

Dr Goodall, 54, who has spent most of the past 28 years in the Tanzanian bush studying chimpanzees, was launching a British branch of the Jane Goodall Institute at the Royal Overseas Club in London.

Dr Goodall said that, according to the United States National Institutes for Health, whose chief scientist is leading AIDS researcher Dr Robert Gallo, thousands of wild

chimpanzees would be needed at an increasing rate.

Chimpanzees, which now number 175,000 or less, are found in a band across Africa from the Ivory Coast to Tanzania and Uganda. Their first strongholds are Gabon, Cameroon and the Central African Republic.

In the West Africa countries of Liberia, Sierra Leone and the Ivory Coast, the chimpanzees are recognised internationally as being "endangered," Dr Goodall said.

She viewed with alarm plans to set up laboratories in Africa to get round the international convention on the import of endangered species.

She and seven eminent medical scientists, led by Dr Jan Moor-Jankowski of New York

University, have written a report, to be published in a forthcoming issue of the magazine *Nature*, saying there are adequate supplies of chimps in captivity for research into hepatitis and AIDS.

What makes chimps valuable to researchers is their similarity to human beings. They are the only other species to develop type B hepatitis and are the only animals scientists have been able to inject with the AIDS virus with any degree of reliability.

American scientists working to combat AIDS in young children have received promising results from initial tests which indicate their lives can be prolonged and improved.

According to official figures

ANDY CAPP



By Smith

compiled by the US Centre for Disease Control, 981 American children have developed AIDS while the number infected is probably now more than 5,000.

Recent experiments on a group of 36 children aged between five months to 12 years has shown that the drug azidothymidine, or AZT, which has prolonged lives of adult AIDS victims, appears to be even more effective with children.

Child victims often have difficulty learning to speak and some are mentally retarded. Frequently they experienced delays in learning to sit up, crawl and walk. But researchers have found AZT can produce a dramatic change, even reversing some of the neurological problems.

Robin Gauldie

FEWER than 4,000 black rhino survive in all Africa. There are perhaps 200 more in zoos around the world. The temptations to become involved in poaching are enormous, for one horn may fetch more than many could hope to earn in a year in the Middle East a horn dagger may fetch \$15,000.

Under such pressure, compounded by expanding human populations and shrinking wild environments, the black rhino which numbered tens of thousands fewer than 20 years ago is on the point of vanishing.

It is recognised that conventional conservation measures have failed. Facing ever more sophisticated poaching, security and protection forces have often been unable — and sometimes unwilling — to do their job. In many cases gamekeepers turn poacher: a senior member of the Kenya Department of Wildlife has published his view that one in three rhino poached in Kenya in the last decade have been shot by mem-

CAUSE OF DERMATOMYOSITIS UNKNOWN

QUESTION: I've been diagnosed as having a weird disease called dermatomyositis. Please fill me in, and would you please discuss any ways of treating this disease?

ANSWER: Dermatomyositis is a disorder characterised by pain, redness, heat and swelling of deep muscle tissue accompanied by a surface rash. And in a way you're right to label it a "weird" disease because its symptoms are often dramatic and its cause is as yet unknown. Research indicates a strong link between its occurrence and immune reactions such as antigen/antibody activity present during infection, as well as a possible defect in the immune system itself. However, dermatomyositis often develops in conjunction with latent malignancies and other connective tissue diseases such as lupus and sclerosis (a hardening and scarring of tissue), and its particular symptoms are hard to isolate.

Clinically, four features tend to characterise the disorder: weakness in the muscles of the arms, legs, neck and respiratory system (with or without difficulty in swallowing); serum elevation of skeletal muscle enzymes; muscular degeneration identified by inserting electrodes confirmed by biopsy; and a

severe surface rash. The rule of thumb is to label the diagnosis definite when three or four of these criteria and the rash are present, and probable when two criteria plus a rash are present.

When only a probability of dermatomyositis exists, your physician will be alert to signs of other conditions which carry similar symptoms, such as other collagen vascular diseases, hyperthyroidism, trichoscopy, drug reactions and muscular dystrophy. (Rash and muscle weakness in the joints are usually present in every case of confirmed dermatomyositis.)

Once an accurate diagnosis is made, prompt treatment can begin, because left untreated the disorder can injure the lungs, heart, esophagus, eyes, kidneys and joints. (The incidence of these complications is somewhat rare.)

Initially most patients are treated with corticosteroids, with prednisone the favourite because it is not only inexpensive

but is less likely to cause further skin irritation. In fact, it can be injected directly into the joints or applied in creams, lotions and ointments to relieve the various types of rashes and papules which erupt. Adult

1988 TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES, INC.



FORMER President Jimmy Carter and his wife wave from the speakers' podium at the Omni in Atlanta, site of the Democratic National Convention. (Reuter wirephoto)



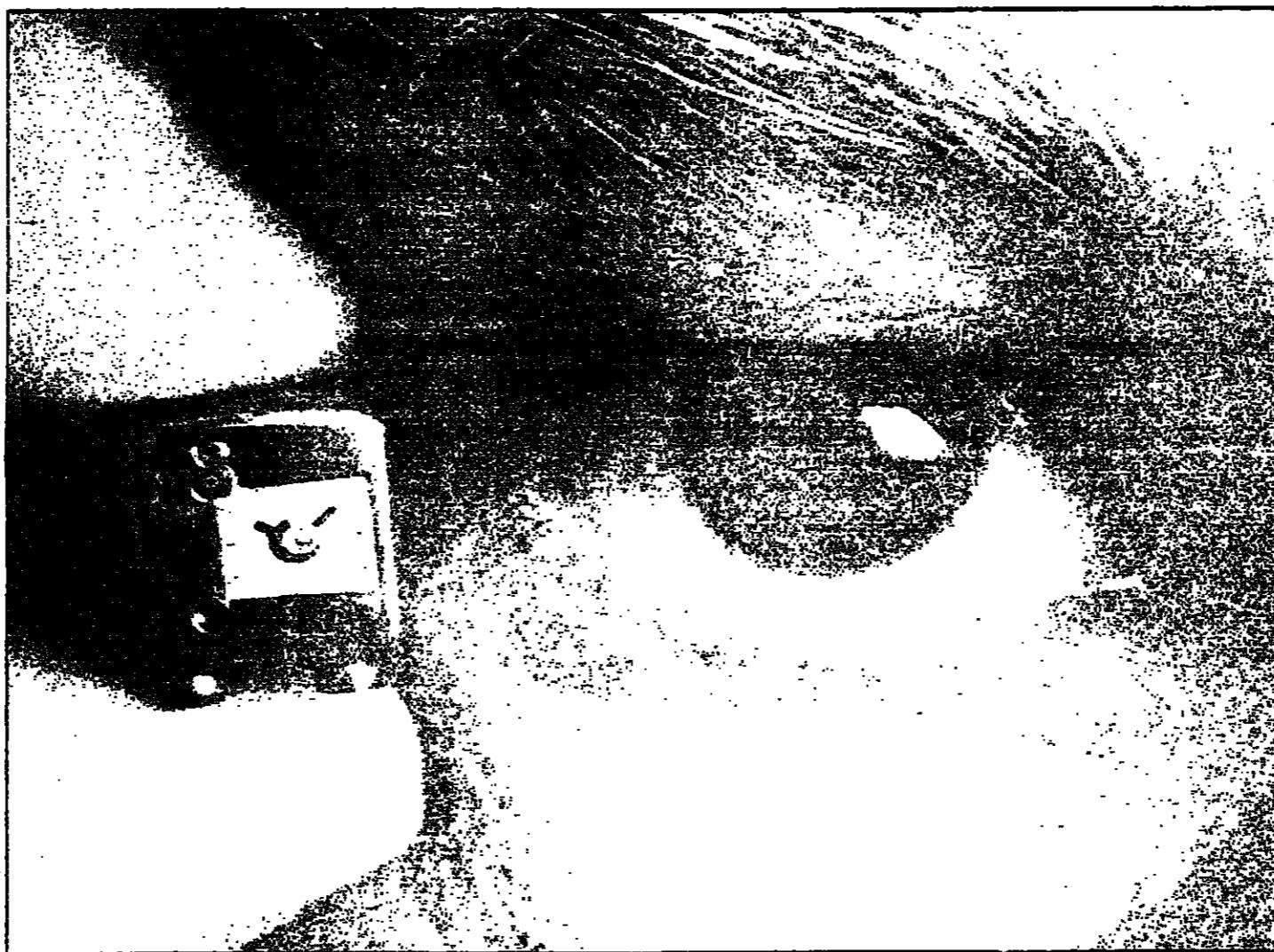
GREGORIO ROSAL (right), spokesman of a major communist rebel command, photographed in a mountain hideout in southern Luzon, asked President Corazon Aquino in a taped statement, to abandon her militarist policies before any peace talks could be held to end the Philippines' 19-year insurgency. At left is rebel military officer, Ke Berl. (Reuter wirephoto)



ICE hockey superstar Wayne Gretzky and his new bride Janet Jones wave to a crowd of onlookers as they leave St Joseph's Basilica in Gretzky, Edmonton, yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)



THE shuttle Discovery's right-side orbital manoeuvring system was moved into storage in February. A leak in Discovery's left-side pod, a mirror image of the one pictured here, could cause delays in its launch. (Reuter wirephoto)



SWISS clockmaker Fredy Swiss displays the world's smallest mechanical pendule clock which weighs 1.9 grammes. The clock is constructed with 150 components and has a height of 9.9 millimetres. (Reuter wirephoto)



ABOUT 300,000 supporters of opposition presidential candidate Cuauhtemoc Cardenas gathered in Mexico City to protest alleged fraud in the July 6 elections in which Cardenas finished second to official candidate Carlos Salinas de Gortari. (Reuter wirephoto)



TRAVELLERS in a crowded Gatwick Airport take a nap as restrictions on the number of flights over Europe continue. About 3,000 people spent the night at the airport as a result of a dispute involving Greek air traffic controllers. (Reuter wirephoto)



POP megastar Michael Jackson presents the Prince and Princess of Wales with gifts including cassettes and specially made 'Bad' tour jackets before his third sellout concert in London on Saturday. (Reuter wirephoto)

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Short-term interest rates edging up in UK and W. Germany

Dollar seems set to climb even higher

LONDON, July 17. (Reuters): The dollar, which shot up on Friday after better-than-expected US trade figures for May, seems to climb higher in the coming weeks, currency experts and economists believe.

But their optimism is tempered by concerns about the impact of a dearer dollar on the stubbornly high American trade deficit in the longer term and on interest rates and inflation.

After an eight-per-cent rise against the West German mark and the Japanese yen over the past month, the dollar on Friday easily absorbed renewed joint

intervention by European central banks and the US Federal Reserve after the May trade deficit of \$10.93 billion was announced in Washington.

Expectations

The April gap was \$10.3 billion and the May figure was below market expectations of up to \$11.5 billion.

"Close your eyes and buy the dollar," said Robert White, senior dealer at First Interstate Bank Ltd in New York.

The dollar ended in New York on Friday at 1,8805 marks and 135.45 yen, up half a pfenning and 0.2 yen on London's close and

more than 2.5 pfennings and two yen up on Thursday night in New York.

Dealers said the dollar was at a crucial level which would determine whether it establishes a firmly higher trading range above 135 yen. Such higher ground would depend heavily on Japanese institutional investors' actions next week, they said.

"If the dollar can hold above 135 yen, it will send a very strong buying signal to long-term Japanese investors," said Adrian Warr, head of trading at Union Bank of Switzerland.

Dealers said the dollar had

also clearly entered a new, higher trading range against European currencies and might now be firmly in the 1.85 to 1.90 mark spread that prevailed 11 months ago. In early January in Tokyo, the dollar touched historic quoted lows of 120.20 yen and 1.5615 marks.

Outlook

One ambiguous point about the outlook for the yen, dealers said, was the conspicuous absence throughout the current dollar rally of Bank of Japan intervention to sell dollars for yen.

A senior Japanese bank dealer

said Japanese investor selling was slowing the dollar's rise. An end to that selling would send the dollar higher, forcing the Bank of Japan into play.

The recent modest intervention by European central banks and the US Fed were seen by dealers as more a smoothing exercise.

Reduction

Meanwhile, some senior US government economists have begun to question how long the US trade deficit could continue to improve if the dollar climbed much further.

"I'd be really surprised if we had a major reduction (in the trade deficit) with the dollar at these levels," one economist, who declined to be identified, said in Washington.

In Europe, some economists argue that rising US imports could start to sap the dollar's strength and help European central banks to ease their monetary policies.

But they still saw short-term interest rates edging up in Britain and West Germany this week to keep the lid on inflation. A stronger dollar feeds through to domestic and imports dearer.

World Business Summary

Kuwaiti economy grew 5pc in '87, says study

KUWAIT'S economy, boosted by higher world oil prices, expanded last year for the first time since 1984, the Central Bank said yesterday.

Its 1987 economic report said gross domestic product (GDP) over 1986. Non-oil GDP grew three per cent and the oil sector 8.4 per cent, the report said.

Kuwaiti officials say the economy is emerging from a recession triggered by the 1982 crash of the local Souk Al-Manakh stock market and fall in world oil prices. Oil exports climbed 13.3 per cent last year over 1986 to KD2.1 billion (\$7.4 billion) after efforts by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to boost world prices, the report said. Another factor that promoted growth was a government-backed bad debt scheme that began to reschedule non-performing bank loans dating from the 1982 crash. The report also cited lower interest rates introduced by the Central Bank in March 1987. It said the re-lending of oil tankers last year, which led to a huge foreign naval build-up in the Gulf, had helped to secure Kuwait's vital oil exports. "Tension in the Gulf did not significantly reduce the size of Kuwait oil exports in 1987," the Central Bank said.

The report showed a revival in the trade, real estate and construction sectors. Inflation in 1987 declined to 0.6 per cent from one per cent in 1986, it added.

Economy is in fine fettle, says World Bank official

INDIA'S economic performance continues to be good despite a serious drought last year, according to Artila Karasmanoglu, vice president of the World Bank's Asia region. Speaking to journalists in Washington recently, Karasmanoglu noted that there has been a significant upturn in industrial growth in India, with production increases in manufacturing averaging about 9 per cent a year over the past three years. The success is attributable to progress in industrial policy, where several measures have been implemented to improve efficiency and export promotion, he explained. But similar policy reforms are needed to sustain or accelerate the country's recent growth pattern of about 5 per cent a year. So far, he pointed out, this growth has been sustained with relative macroeconomic stability. Inflation rates have been moderate and the resource balance and current account deficit have been kept to levels that could be financed without endangering long-term creditworthiness. The improved economic performance, along with government interventions, has decreased the relative incidence of poverty in India. Still, he warned, the number of poor people remains very large. The immediate economic outlook for the country is good, Karasmanoglu said, but progress will depend on good weather and the government's commitment to implementing sound economic policies and management. Karasmanoglu expressed support for the government's efforts to contain the public sector deficit, adding that the current commitment to further deregulation of the domestic economy is necessary to increase efficiency.

Aluminium smelter studies 180,000 tonne expansion

BAHRAIN, July 17. (Reuters): A Bahraini firm said today it was considering increasing its aluminium smelting capacity by 180,000 tonnes a year, the latest in a flurry of projects to expand production in the Gulf. A spokesman for Aluminium Bahrain (ALBA) said the increase would be in addition to the current 580 million modernisation programme to boost capacity to 225,000 tonnes a year from the current 180,000. He said several companies had submitted proposals for a feasibility study and a contract would be awarded soon. The study is due to be finished by the end of the year. Production would be increased either by expanding the existing smelter or by building a second, the spokesman said.

The expansion would be the latest in a series of new smelters proposed by investors lined to the Gulf by cheap power and abundant capital. Earlier this month a private Saudi group invited investors to help build a \$750 million, 240,000 tonne per year smelter in the Red Sea industrial city of Yanbu.

Caracas hopes to become major gold producer

CARACAS, July 17. (OPECNA): Venezuela plans to become a leading producer of gold, exporting about 250 tonnes a year by the end of the century, according to a government official. Lepoldo Sucre Sigarella, president of Corporacion Venezolana de Guayana, a government agency responsible for the development of eastern Venezuela, told reporters that Venezuela could achieve its gold export goal because it had proven reserves of 8,000 tonnes in El Callao area about 800 km east of the capital. He said recoverable reserves were estimated to be worth about \$45 million worth of the metal. This year, the figure is expected to reach 300 million.

Venezuela plans to seek technical assistance from specialized American companies in its gold exploration programme.

Bond issue will have beneficial effect on local market: Hamar

ABU DHABI, July 17. (KUNA): The UAE Central Bank has proposed that the government should issue financial bonds as the way of cutting the federal budget deficit. Abdul Malek Al Hamar, UAE Central Bank Governor in an interview with Khaleej Times published today, said that he believed the issue of bonds would have a beneficial effect on the local market. "Issuing of bonds is one of the several measures now being considered as a response to the deficit which has been caused by the fall of oil income," Hamar said. As a result of the dwindling oil revenue, the UAE has been facing deficit in the federal budget, for the past few years, Hamar added.

The governor warned banks to be cautious in extending credit and dismissed criticism that too many controls were hampering some banks from expansion. "Whatever controls the Central Bank has required the banks to comply with are meant to safeguard the banking system in the country," he said.

Ghana boosts gold output

GHANA will increase gold production and earn more foreign exchange through a project that will help rehabilitate the State Gold Mining Corporation (SGMC), strengthen the Minerals Commission and the Ministry of Land and Natural Resources and make small-scale mining operations more efficient. IDA is supporting the project with a credit of \$DR 29.3 million (\$40 million), according to World Bank News.

Ghana's mining sector generates almost a fifth of the country's export earnings and employs about 24,000 people. Gold accounts for more than four-fifths of the total value of mineral exports. The government is aware of the economic potential of the mining sector and is giving high priority to upgrading and expanding operations. The \$210 million project includes measures to increase gold production and reduce safety hazards at SGMC's three mines. It also includes financing for evaluation studies of SGMC, Ghana Consolidated Diamonds and Ghana National Manganese Company. The results of these studies will guide government policies aimed at encouraging greater private sector participation in mining. Mineral exploration will be carried out and gold prospects will be promoted to potential investors. Small-scale mining operations will be improved through technical assistance.

Acceptable solutions still eluding policymakers

Debt crisis is sending out fresh political tremors

WASHINGTON, July 17. (Reuters): The global debt crisis, ignited almost six years when Mexico ran into deep financial difficulties, is sending out fresh political tremors and broadly acceptable solutions are still eluding policymakers.

He said the current debt strategy, including Treasury Secretary James Baker's 1985 initiative providing incentives for countries to seek market-oriented solutions, "is causing a radicalisation and polarisation of Latin American politics."

Sachs and others believe the economic reality of Latin America is that several states, including Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, and Ecuador, will never pay a large portion of their debt.

This is again raising the spectre that has stalked the debt crisis since it began — the formation of a debtors' organisation.

Former Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez last week urged Latin American debtor nations to take a common stand in seeking easier debt repayment terms.

"We should do what the industrialised nations do: agree upon a

policy that strengthens our negotiating power — and that's what we are going to do," he said.

Perez, among the frontrunners in the upcoming presidential elections in Venezuela, added: "When I become president, the conditions will be ripe for applying these policies."

Such statements, which experts take increasingly seriously, seem to reject Reagan administration beliefs that a payments moratorium or unified action by the debtors are highly unlikely.

US officials maintain Brazil's decision to stop making interest payments last year failed as a debt policy, prompting it to resume paying interest and to swallow economic reforms hammered out with the International Monetary Fund.

In hindsight, the debt crisis was predictable and preventable, experts agree. It surfaced full blown in August 1982 when Mexico said its financial reserves had reached a critically low level

and that it needed help.

Simply put, feeling flush because of vast new discoveries of oil, the country went on a development binge using money borrowed from commercial banks.

When oil prices were soaring,

the debt did not seem to pose a problem, but when they turned lower, Mexico found its economy far out on a limb.

Mexico was not alone in having dug itself an economic hole. Since 1982, the economic fortunes of the whole of Latin America, although ebbing and flowing, have drifted lower and countries have found it harder to manage their debt-bloated economies.

Experts, with one eye on the Mexican election, believe more debt-fuelled political turmoil is ahead in Latin America with voters turning increasingly to the more radical political elements.

They see growing evidence that a new debt initiative is badly needed and that without it Latin

America could become more leftist or turn to military rule for stability.

"As a result of six years of these pressures, we have saved the (commercial) banks, but are losing the countries," says Harvard's Sachs.

Solutions, however, are not easy to come by.

Suggestions being tossed back and forth include new loans with US government or World Bank guarantees, types of bonds or annuities that carry no initial interest cost, and the formation of a new international corporation funded by creditor countries.

"I can think of no public policy issue which deserves attention greater than the international debt crisis, and yet, probably because the definition of the problem comes from so many different constituencies, often conflict with each other, it is no wonder that a solution is not forthcoming," said Eugene Rotherg of Merrill Lynch and Co.

UK banks' expected gains may not be easily sustained

LONDON, July 17: Most British commercial banks are expected to show strong profit growth in first-half earnings reports this month, but the results could just a pleasant peak in a gloomy landscape, according to the Wall Street Journal.

Bank analysts and economists say profits were enhanced by an improvement in the Third World debt situation and continued strong growth in domestic lending. Big provisions against loans to countries with payment difficulties are gone, and first-half lending this year is up an average 19 per cent.

But observers caution that the debt crisis could erupt again, and the government's attempt to control the domestic credit boom might hurt bank profit later.

Also, banks will soon face increased competition from Britain's building societies, the rough equivalent of savings and loan associations in the US. Building societies recently were allowed to expand out of their traditional mortgage lending role into unsecured consumer lending and a wide range of financial services.

This year "could be the watershed" for banks, says Terry Smith, a bank analyst at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the merchant bank subsidiary of Barclays PLC.

Michael Leaver, a bank analyst at brokerage Smith New Court Agency Ltd, says 1988 presents "a fairly encouraging picture" but there could be some

squeeze" next year.

National Westminster Bank PLC leads off banks' interim reporting season July 26. Expectations for its pretax profit for the first half range from £665 million (\$1.13 billion) to £690 million (\$1.17 billion). Last year, the bank reported first-half tax profit of £251 million.

Midland Bank PLC reports the next day and is expected to post pre-tax profit of £305 million to £350 million. Midland last year reported a £521 million loss, including its provisions for problem loans.

Analysts say first-half results should include five months of Brazilian interest payments that will partially help Lloyds and Midland. Brazil recently reached a tentative \$62 billion debt rescheduling accord with its creditor banks and has resumed interest payments that were suspended in February 1987.

Analysts say the resumption of Brazilian interest payments should add about £25 million each to the pre-tax profit of Lloyds and Midland for the first half, and about £10 million to Barclays and £8 million to Natwest.

Barclays PLC is expected July 28 to show pre-tax profit of £582 million to £610 million, against a pre-tax loss of £40 million for the first half last year.

Analysts say the resumption of Brazilian interest payments will allow earnings from greater domestic lending to directly affect banks' profit, analysts said.

Analysts are expecting banks to offer generous dividends. Leaver expects Lloyds to boost its interim dividend by about 20 per cent from 4.6 pence a share a year ago, Natwest by about 17 per cent from eight pence, and Barclays and Midland by about £569 million.

Analysts expect reserves for Third World loans are expected to have been minimal this year.

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because of that country's deteriorating economy. But Martin Cross, an analyst at Warburg Securities, says banks may opt to cover the additions by reducing their Brazilian provisions.

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CURRENCY & BUSINESS

UK industrial production rises

ON balance the markets throughout the week waited in anticipation of the trade numbers on Friday. However, prior to their release the dollar continued to push upwards despite intervention, particularly by the Bundesbank and other European banks.

The release of the number at deficit \$10.9 billion was considered to be better than the markets expectations and hence saw a period of frenetic trading to bring the US unit to over DM1.87 and Y135.

In his testimony chairman of the Federal Reserve, Greenspan, warned of the need to guard against the dangers of an inflationary spiral and made strong representations for a further reduction in the Federal budget deficit.

Retail sales rose 0.5 per cent equivalent to \$713 million in June to a seasonally adjusted \$132.8 billion and was 5 per cent above the corresponding period in 1987. Excluding autos, the June figure was up just 0.3 per cent compared with a revised 0.6 per cent in May. Auto sales increased 1.2 per cent in May after a 0.8 per cent decline the previous month.

Producer price index increased 0.4 per cent in June compared with a seasonally adjusted increase of 0.5 per cent in May.

The seasonally adjusted annual rate for the first six months this year now represents 3.6 per cent and compares with 2.2 per cent a year ago.

Merchandise trade increased to a seasonally adjusted deficit of \$10.9 billion for May compared

with \$10.3 billion for the month before.

Merchandise exports increased in May by 2.3 per cent to \$6.6 billion on a seasonally adjusted basis.

Business inventories increased by 0.6 per cent in May to \$4.1 billion. This followed a 0.5 per cent rise in inventories during April.

Indication

Greenspan's comments can undoubtedly be interpreted as an indication of the Federal Reserve's interest in stemming any inflationary tendencies.

Given that the economy is far stronger than originally anticipated at the beginning of the year and the dollar's rebound suggests that interest rates will continue to move higher. We, therefore, continue to expect rises over the entire interest rate spectrum with Fed funds moving higher and to a point which will provoke a discount rate increase.

Present market sentiment with respect to the dollar continues to be exceedingly positive with the better than anticipated trade numbers adding to this psychology. We continue to expect little change with the dollar forging further ahead.

To some extent its rate of rise will be capped by further substantial intervention by central banks from both sides of the Atlantic.

However, trading ranges for the coming week must be on the upside of current dollar levels.

Sterling continued to suffer against the weakness of the US dollar with funds moving strongly into the US unit. However, on

the cross rate, sterling managed to hold its own and remained around DM3.11. To a large extent this represented the DM's present market weakness.

Interest rates have remained relatively unaffected with economic numbers coming in on balance slightly conflicting; whilst wage settlements appear to be edging lower, unemployment numbers and manufacturing levels continue to indicate an exceedingly buoyant economy.

Average earnings increased an underlying 8.5 per cent in May on a seasonally adjusted basis following a revised downward revision for April's figure of 0.25 per cent to 8.5 per cent.

Unemployment fell to 8.4 per cent in June representing a minor decline of 38,900 to current 2.38 million. The May figure stood at 8.6 per cent.

Industrial production rose 0.6 per cent in May increasing 1.1 per cent over the three months to stand at 3.5 per cent above that of a year ago.

Pressures

Manufacturing output rose more steeply, increasing by 1.7 per cent in three months and 6.4 per cent over the year.

Retail price index increased in June by 0.4 per cent representing a yearly rise of 4.6 per cent. This compares with a year on year rise to May of 4.2 per cent.

Inflationary concerns continued to dominate both the credit and the foreign exchange markets. With retail prices continuing to increase currently at 4.6 per cent, this has prompted official

announcements by Chancellor Nigel Lawson, that government policy will be directed to curb excessive inflationary and liquidity pressures.

As a consequence we continue to anticipate that whilst an imminent base rate increase may not be likely further base rate hikes are set for the future in line with an international upward "ratchet" in rates. Credit markets will be correspondingly negatively affected. However, it would appear that the equity market recognises that policy requirement to control an overheated economy — with the money supply continuing to proceed well outside of the 3-6 per cent target range, and the dollar's recent strength, the Bundesbank is likely to take the opportunity to increase interest rates.

Japan's trade surplus narrowed by more than 10 per cent in June to \$5.9 billion compared with \$6.6 billion a year ago. Exports rose by 17 per cent however this was more than offset by imports which increased 32 per cent over the same period.

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TENNIS

Potter upsets Shriver

NEWPORT, R.I., July 17. (Reuter): Third-seeded Barbara Potter used her strong serve to win a pair of tiebreaks to upset American compatriot and top-seed Pam Shriver at the \$200,000 Newport international tennis tournament.

Potter's 7-6 (7-5) 7-6 (7-5) victory earned her a berth in the finals against countrywoman Lori McNeil who had to scramble to beat South African Ros Fairbank 3-6 7-5 6-3 in the grass court competition.

Potter, 16th in the world, relied on her serve to rescue her from trouble against Shriver, the two-time defending champion. Potter has won four of their nine matches.

Potter dropped her serve in the first game of the match but held service the rest of the way, escaping four break points with her hard left-handed serve.

Potter said that confidence in her serve yesterday enabled her to overcome any doubts brought on by her two previous tiebreaks to Shriver.

Imports

"When I feel my serve is going in, there is synchronicity in my entire game. The most important thing in tiebreaks is to get my serve in and be aware of where to hit the volley," Potter said.

Shriver dropped the eleventh point of each tiebreak on forehand volley errors.

"She played a fine match, Shriver said, "but I missed things this week. I missed my serve and my legs. She was the toughest player in the tournament for me to play because of her serve."

McNeil, seeded second, rallied from one set down and 3-5 in the second set to ice her victory over Fairbank, a quarterfinalist on the grass courts at Wimbledon.

McNeil, ninth in the world, used her underspin groundstrokes and deceptive service returns to confuse the 42nd-ranked Fairbank in the final set.

Agassi tames Gomez for title

STUTTGART, West Germany, July 17. (Agencies): Andre Agassi of the United States scored an easy 6-4 6-2 victory over Andres Gomez in the final of rain-delayed \$350,000 Stuttgart Men's Grand Prix tennis tournament today to take the title.

Agassi showed no effects of the tough semifinal match he had to play earlier in the morning in which he defeated Henri Leconte of France 7-5 7-5. The semifinals had to be rescheduled for this morning after rain washed out yesterday's programme.

Gomez, the number 11 seed for this tournament, seemed to be tired after playing his semifinal. Gomez thrashed Guillermo Perez-Roldan of Argentina 6-3 6-1 in the morning.

Agassi, who was the number two seed, found Gomez put up a fight in the opening set but after he had settled into his game took the next set with very little effort.

Agassi, who has shown tremendous progress this year, did not take part in the Wimbledon tournament this year as his coach wanted him to gain more experience before he entered such a tough event.

Swedish Open

BASTAD, Sweden, July 17. (Reuter): Result in the final of the Swedish Open tennis championships today (prefix number denotes seed):

7-Marcelo Filippi (Uruguay) beat Francesco Cancellotti (Italy) 6-2 6-4 6-4.

GRIFFITH-JOYNER AND JOYNER-KERSEE PROVIDE NEW MARKS

US athletes set world's best in four events

INDIANAPOLIS, July 17. (Reuter): There may never have been a day like it in recent athletics history.

Within two hours yesterday at the US Olympic trials, two world records tumbled and gusting winds pushed Carl Lewis to the fastest 100 metres ever and Willie Banks to the longest triple jump of all-time.

Sisters-in-law Florence Griffith-Joyner and Jackie Joyner-Kersee provided the world records.

Griffith-Joyner clocked an incredible, but controversial 10.49 seconds in a preliminary round of the women's 100 metres dash minutes before Joyner-Kersee broke the women's heptathlon record for the third time in two years with a score of 7,215 points.

Bounded Lewis followed the world-record show by running the 100 metres in 9.78 seconds, after Banks twice had bounded beyond the 18-metres barrier in the triple jump final. The last and the best of the jumps spanned 18.20 metres.

Both performances were the best marks ever in the events but they cannot be considered world records because the wind on each was above the allowable 2.0 metres per second for record purposes.

Lewis's fantastic clocking was aided by a gust of 5.2 metres per second and Banks took advantage of each tiebreak on forehand volley errors.

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Scifo dazzles in Bordeaux debut

PARIS, July 17. (Reuter): Belgian midfielder Enzo Scifo made a sparkling debut for his new club Bordeaux yesterday, scoring both goals in a 2-0 victory over Auxerre on the opening weekend of the French First Division soccer season.

Scifo, who disappointed Inter Milan last season after moving from Anderlecht, also provided a service of long floated passes for fellow-newcomers Clive Allen, from England's Tottenham, and World Cup striker Yannick Stopyra from Toulouse.

The tactic gave last season's runners-up clear supremacy on the pitch, and Scifo capitalised in the 38th minute after expertly chesting the ball to his left foot.

Conjured The Belgian, putting his stamp firmly on game one of the new season, conjured his way through a muddled Auxerre defence four minutes from the final whistle to net his second.

Auxerre missed the thrust of Eric Cantona, transferred to Marseille, but the international striker's new club suffered an early setback at home to Mont-



Griffith-Joyner (left) gets a hug from Gail Devers after setting the record. (Reuter wirephoto)



Joyner-Kersee leaps 7.00 metres in the long jump on her way to a new record.

opportunity to defend his Olympic championship.

Riding the crest of the best first-day total ever in the heptathlon on Friday, Joyner-Kersee won the long jump with a leap of 7.00 metres, threw the javelin 50.8 metres and ran the 800 metres in two minutes, 20.70 seconds during a seven-hour period.

Only the first three finishers at the US trials qualify for the Seoul Games and Joyner was fifth as he leaped 17.58 metres.

Joyner-Kersee covered her eyes and began crying when the triple jump results were announced.

"It hurts," she said. "We are family. He is with me and I am with him. And I know how hard he worked."

Before the announcement, there had been much joy.

"I feel very happy," Joyner-Kersee said after the world record. "I wanted to make the team and set the record. At Seoul, I'll be hungry and motivated."

On Friday she began the quest for victory by finishing the 100 metres hurdles in 12.71 seconds, the high jump at 1.93 metres, the shot put at 15.65 metres and the 200 metres in 22.30 seconds.

She gave credit to her husband, Bob Kersee.

"If it hadn't been for Bob, I couldn't have made it."

Kersee had predicted the world record two days ago and then guided his wife to the mark.

BASEBALL ROUNDUP

Pirates cut Giants down to size

NEW YORK, July 17. (AP): Only the weather is hotter than the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Mike Lavalliere's two-run double and pitcher Doug Drabek's two-run triple highlighted a six-run third inning as the Pirates routed the San Francisco Giants 10-1 last night for their eighth straight victory.

"You keep the other team on the field as long as we did and that's an advantage," Pirates manager Jim Leyland said.

"When you have to stay out there in that heat, it takes a lot out of you."

Giants manager Roger Craig agreed that hot and humid conditions are a sharp contrast to the generally cool climate at Candlestick Park.

"It doesn't seem to bother the other team," Craig said. "Maybe they're used to it. They're as hot as a firecracker right now. Everything they hit goes for a base hit."

The victory kept the second-place Pirates 2-1/2 games behind the Mets in the National League East.

Did Bream and Tommy Gregg also had two runs batted in apiece for the Pirates, who matched their longest winning streak since 1983.

Mets 3, Braves 2

Kevin McReynolds' pop fly double to right field with two outs in the eighth inning scored Dave Magadan from first base as New York beat home-standing Atlanta 3-2. The victory went to Edwin Nunez, 1-0.

Expos 6, Reds 1

Tim Raines hit two home runs and Hubie Brooks added a two-run shot as Montreal defeated Cincinnati 6-1. Dennis Martinez, 10-7, pitched a six-hitter for his fourth complete game as the Expos won for the ninth time in 10 games.

Twins 4, Orioles 3

In Baltimore, Kirby Puckett hit a two-run homer in the first inning, and Greg Gagne and Gary Gaetti added solo shots, powering the Minnesota Twins to a 4-3 victory over the Baltimore Orioles. Twins starter Fred Toliver, 1-1, pitched seven innings of five-hit baseball in 90-plus degree temperatures to record his first AL victory.

Cubs 2, Dodgers 2

The Chicago Cubs and Los Angeles Dodgers were tied 2-2 in the ninth inning when rain forced postponement of the game, forcing it to be replayed in its entirety as part of a doubleheader today.

Tim Belcher was to pitch against Jeff Pico in today's opener, with Chicago's Al Nipper facing Brian Holton in the second game.

Cardinals 3, Padres 2

Luis Alicea's two-out single drove in the winning run as St Louis scored twice in the ninth inning at home to beat San Diego 3-2 and snap an eight-game losing streak. Alicea's single off reliever Lance McCullers drove in pinch-runner Tom Lawless from third.

White Sox 7, Yankees 4

Fred Manrique drove in three runs and Steve Lyons homered and hit a sacrifice fly as the Chicago White Sox beat the New York Yankees 7-4 in New York.

Rookie Melido Perez, at 22 the youngest player on either team, improved his record to 9-5. Tommy John, the oldest player in the Majors at 45, fell to 7-3.

Results

American League			
	W	L	Pct
Boston	7	Kansas City	.6
Detroit	10	California	.7
Chicago	10	Seattle	.7
Oakland	4	Toronto	.1
Minnesota	4	Baltimore	.3
Milwaukee	4	Texas	.3
Cleveland	8	Seattle	.2
National League			
Philadelphia	1	Montreal	.0
Pittsburgh	10	San Francisco	.6
Montreal	6	Cincinnati	.1
New York	3	Atlanta	.2
St Louis	3	San Diego	.2
Chicago	2	Los Angeles	.2
(suspended, rain)			

Standings

National League			
East Division			
	W	L	Pct
New York	55	35	.611
Pittsburgh	52	37	.584
Montreal	47	42	.528
Chicago	45	43	.511
St Louis	37	51	.420
West Division			
Los Angeles	51	36	.586
San Francisco	46	42	.523
Houston	46	44	.511
Cincinnati	43	47	.511
New York	41	50	.451
St Louis	31	56	.356

American League

American League			
East Division			

SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

Becker wins

BREMEN, West Germany, July 17. (Reuter): Boris Becker beat Jimmy Connors 7-6 (7-2) 2-6 6-3 in an exhibition match today, his second victory over the American this weekend. Becker, using the encounters to warm up for West Germany's Davis Cup world group semifinal against Yugoslavia in Dortmund next weekend, had beaten Connors 7-5 6-4 in Munich yesterday.

World records

PEKING, July 17. (Reuter): A 15-year-old Chinese girl has broken three women's world weightlifting records at a provincial sports meeting, the official New China News Agency said today.

Illinois Classic

COAL VALLEY, Ill., July 17. (Reuter): American Blaine McCallister continued to blister the par-70 course here, shooting a 61 yesterday for a four-shot lead entering the final round of the \$600,000 Illinois Classic golf tournament.

Boston golf

DANVERS, Mass., July 17. (Reuter): American Colleen Walker shot a two-under-par 70 yesterday to take a four-stroke lead into the final round of the \$300,000 Boston Classic golf tournament.

New mark

EAST BERLIN, July 17. (Reuter): Talented young East German athlete Ilke Wylyuda set a junior women's shot world record of 20.23 metres yesterday, a day after bettering her own junior discus world mark for the fourth time this year.

Arab Cup

AMMAN, July 17. (Reuter): Tunisia drew with Lebanon 1-1 (half time 1-0) today in a Group One match of the fifth Arab Cup Championships in Amman. Scorers: Tunisia, Toufik Al Muhamad (45th), Lebanon — Mahmoud Hammoud (65th).

Women's tennis

BRUSSELS, July 17. (Reuter): Rain today forced postponement of the final of the Belgian women's tennis tournament until tomorrow, the organisers said.

Cecchini triumphs

NICE, France, July 17. (UPI): Second seed Sandra Cecchini of Italy wore down Nathalie Tauziat of France with soft, deep groundstrokes today to claim the championship of a \$100,000 women's clay-court tennis tournament by a 7-5, 6-4 score.

Auto race

SUZUKI, Japan, July 17. (AP): Geoff Lees of Britain drove his March-88-GC to victory today in the fifth auto race of the six-event Grand Champion series, beating pole position starter Masanori Sekiya of Japan.

Olympic berth

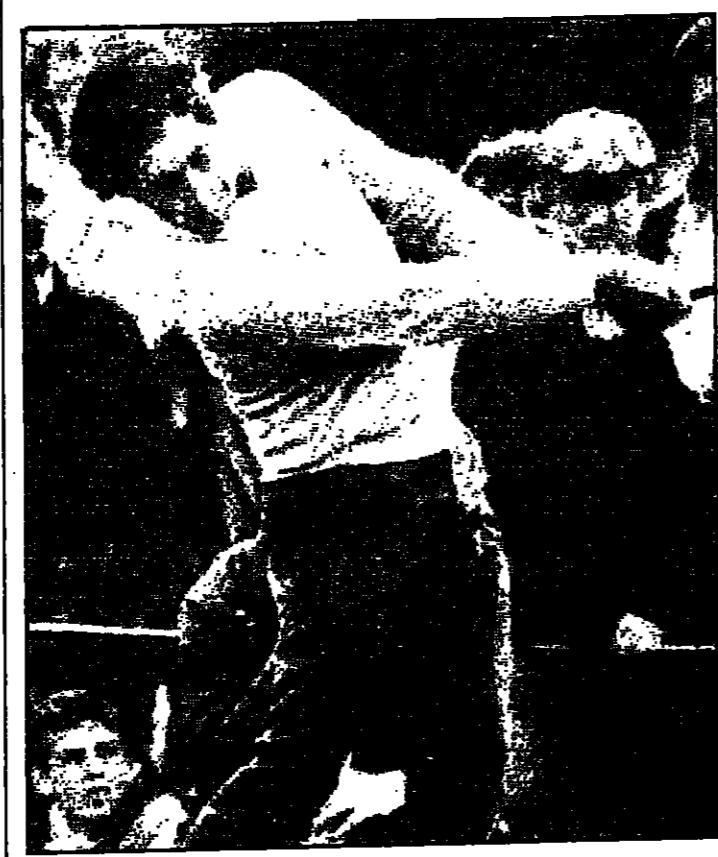
NEWPORT, Rhode Island, July 17. (AP): Mike Gebhardt, of Florida, earned the US Olympic berth in the Division II board-stilling class yesterday by outdistancing his chief rival, Bert Rice, in the seventh and final race on Rhode Island sound.

Top finisher

BOCA RATON, Florida, July 17. (AP): Mario Martinez, a 1984 Olympic silver-medallist, was named the US Olympic weightlifting team's top finisher, following the conclusion of weightlifting trials last night.

FALDO SHARES SECOND PLACE

Price stays ahead of Ballesteros



Ballesteros powers his way out of the rough. (Reuter wirephoto)

LYTHAM ST ANNES, England, July 17. (Reuter): Nick Price of Zimbabwe stretched his overnight lead to two shots over Seve Ballesteros and titleholder Nick Faldo midway through the rain-delayed third round of the British Open golf championship today.

Price birdied the ninth hole to move two ahead after holding a three-shot lead when he birdied the sixth, only to see it drop to one after a bogey at the eighth.

Faldo played the front nine in two under and moved up to share second place with Ballesteros on a windy but dry day after the relentless rain yesterday.

Forced

The third round was put back today after the previous day's bad weather forced a suspension and then cancellation of the third day's play.

The final round is to be played tomorrow.

Ballesteros survived what could have been a major setback at the 490-yard, par-five sixth hole. Players virtually count on a birdie four there, the Spaniard took six after driving into heavy bushes on the left.

He had to play out left-handed

and failed to emerge on his first attempt. His second shot did appear, he pitched to the edge of the green and got down in two putts to salvage a bogey.

That dropped him to three behind, but he played a magnificent bunker shot at the 549-yard par-five seventh for a birdie four, and when Price bogeyed the eighth, the Spaniard was just one behind again.

Price, meanwhile, birdied the first hole from eight feet, drove into a bunker and took a bogey at the fourth, then birdied the sixth.

But the rough troubled him at the next and he could manage only a par, then he went through the green at the eighth and missed a six-foot putt to save par.

But his birdie at the ninth, from 10 feet, restored his lead to two shots.

Faldo began badly by missing a putt of 15 inches at the opening hole. But the tenacious Briton, who lost a playoff to American Curtis Strange for the US Open title last month, rolled in a 30-footer for birdie at the second and picked up further birdies at the sixth and eighth, where he holed from 20 feet.

Sandy Lyle of Britain, the US Masters champion who won the

1985 open, battled into contention by matching Faldo's outward half of 33 and collecting a birdie three at the 11th to move within three shots of Price.

Lyle birdied the third, sixth and seventh and took a single bogey at the fourth.

At that point, Price stood at six under par for the tournament, with Ballesteros and Faldo on four under and Lyle on three under.

American Andy Bean, who had a fabulous back nine of 32 in the second round on Friday, made three successive birdies on the front nine in the third round and was at two under par with eight holes to go.

Contention

Jose Rivero of Spain, who won the Monte Carlo Open two weeks ago, edged into contention at three under but took a double-bogey five at the 14th to drop back.

American Lanny Wadkins, who has won twice on the US tour this year, holed in one at the first today to get his round off to a spectacular start.

That improved his position to level par, but he dropped shots during his round and was unable to get fully into contention.

South Africans trying to lure athletics stars

JOHANNESBURG, July 17. (Reuter): South African athletics officials said today they would welcome with open arms overseas track and field stars if they decided to compete here.

Dan Malan, vice-president of the South African Amateur Athletics Union, said his organisation was not officially involved in negotiations to recruit European and US athletes to come here.

But he told reporters he was aware that independent promoters were discussing with overseas athletes the possibility of competing in South Africa.

The Afrikaans-language newspaper Rapport said today that agents were trying to attract foreign athletes here after the Seoul Olympics.

The newspaper said two athletes who had already been approached were pole vaulter Mike Tully and fellow-American Mike Conley, the long and triple-jumper.

"They would be welcome here," Malan said.

He added that his union president, Charles Nieuwoudt, had also said he would be delighted if overseas athletes visited South Africa.

Suspended

South African athletes were exiled to the international wilderness after the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) suspended their country more than 10 years ago because of its apartheid race policies.

Malan said that since then local athletes had been at pains not to transgress IAAF rules in the hope of being allowed back in competition.

But he said the attitude of South African officials and athletes had hardened against the IAAF recently because sport had fulfilled all international requirements for full racial integration.

He said athletics had taken the lead in removing apartheid and black athletes now dominated road running and cross country events.

"Despite all our efforts which have gone into normalising the sport the IAAF have given us no encouragement," Malan said.

South Africa has more than 50 athletes who would qualify for the Olympic Games in South Korea if the country had not been barred.

Wickets

Guham Haider hit two sixes in his 37 while Riaz Chaudhry scored 19 and Idrees 15. For Scorpion, Sarfraz Iqbal and Mustafa got two wickets each while Ejaz and Ashraf got the other two.

In reply, Scorpion were only able to score 108. Sarfraz scored 30 and Ashraf 21.

For Galaxy, Iftikhar got two



Delgado puts on his glasses after the climbing of the Agnes pass. (Reuter wirephoto)

Italian wins 14th stage of Tour de France

He ended up 14th, 8.43 behind.

The men returned from a day off following three mountain stages in the Alps. They transferred from Grenoble to Toulouse by plane.

The 15th stage tomorrow is a difficult 116-mile leg that includes six climbs, the final two rated "beyond category" in steepness and length, ending up close to 2,000 metres above sea level.

Meanwhile Jeannie Longo of France held the lead in the women's Tour de France cycling race today, although the sixth stage was won by another Frenchwoman, Cecile Odin.

Odin broke away from the pack with two Soviet riders, Svetlana Rojkova and Valentina Evpuk, early in the 92-kilometre stage from Blagnac to St Giron.

Under a bright sun, Odin gradually moved away from the other two and won by two minutes, nine seconds over Rojkova. The course included a fourth-degree mountain climb in contrast to the flat course of the day before.

Battling

The rest of the pack followed together, including Longo and Italy's Maria Canini, who have been battling for the top two positions since the women's tour started a week ago. With both clocked in the same time, 3.29 behind the winner, Longo still held a 40-second advantage over the Italian.

The women continue their way to a July 24 finish in Paris with a 58-kilometre leg from Luchon to St Marie de Campan tomorrow.



Razzak: scored 102 wickets while Riaz Mian, Javed Shah, Habib and Tufi Malik got one each. Two batsmen were run out.

After two matches, Galaxy and Khetian now share the top position with 22 points each. Scorpion and Golden Stars have yet to earn a point.

On Friday, Galaxy meet Golden Stars.

Galaxy outclass Scorpion

GALAXY Cricket Club thrashed Scorpion Cricket Club by 94 runs in a Friendship Cup match at the Airport-Millat ground on Friday.

Galaxy, after winning the toss, batted first and put on 202 runs with two seconds behind. Bouvatier came back to end up third, 13 second back of the Italian.

In the overall standings, Pedro Delgado of Spain slightly lengthened his lead. He was at the head of the pack that followed the small group of breakaway riders.

Xiong edges past Sompol

BANGKOK, July 17. (Reuter): Top-seeded Xiong Guobao of China faced a tough challenge from local contender Sompol Kukasemkij before he captured the men's singles title at the Thailand Open badminton championships today.

Although the top-ranked Chinese won the final in straight



• The Kuwait International Finance Company (KIFCO) recently celebrated their victories in the 1987-88 cricket season. The KIFCO squad won five major tournaments — Mathotra, Al Mulla, Gulf Air, Quaid-e-Azam and KCL. The Ambassador of Pakistan to Kuwait, Zahid Saeed (sitting, third left) was the chief guest at the reception.

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England revamp squad for fourth Test



Tim Curtis



Robin Smith
Paul Downton, Phillip Defreitas and Old Trafford 12th man Chris Broad also disappeared from the place in the clear-out.

Curtis also said he did not wish to be considered, while his successor as skipper, John Emburey, loses his place in the clear-out.

Curtis also opted out of the second Test after he lost the captaincy when he was judged to have acted irresponsibly in inviting a woman to his hotel room during the first Test.

He told the selectors before the latest squad was chosen he was not in the right frame of mind to fast bowler Neil Foster.

David Gower, lining up for his 100th Test appearance, Graham Gooch, Allan Lamb, Graham Dilley and Jonathan Childs are the only players retained from the last squad, with left-arm spinner Childs likely to be 12th man.

Mike Gatting, sacked as captain after the first Test, had

demanded selection, while Smith has been considered in previous seasons. He is a player with guts and character."

Gower is set to become the fourth player to complete 100 Tests, joining the English company of Colin Cowdrey, the new England captain's father, Indian run-machine Sunil Gavaskar and former West Indies captain Clive Lloyd.

"It is a very special landmark and it would be nice to celebrate with a special performance, both personally and collectively. It's obviously an added incentive for me to make things work," said Gower, who needs only 15 runs to become the fourth Englishman to make 7,000 in Test.

Opener Curtis has been one of English cricket's most consistent performers on the county circuit, averaging 50 in each of the last three seasons.

Athey's Test career had looked finished, but the in-form batsman earned his recall with an aggregate of 938 runs at an average of 78 this season.

South African-born Smith, whose brother Chris has played eight Tests for England, showed his stroke-making class on the

Lord's stage a week ago with a brief but brilliant 38 which helped Hampshire win a one-day Cup final.

The last brothers to play for England were also born in South Africa — Tony Greig, who captained England in the 1970s and his brother Ian, who made two Test appearances in 1982.

Wicket-keeper Richards featured in England's victorious Ashes tour of Australia two winters ago but has played in only one Test since. His batting form gave him the edge.

Returning Foster has taken 41 wickets in the last five weeks since returning to the game after a long lay-off with a knee injury.

His last match for England was the bicentennial Test against Australia in Sydney in January when he broke down and was flown home for an operation to remove floating fragments of bone from his knee.

Squad: Chris Cowdrey (captain), Bill Athey, Jonathan Childs, Tim Curtis, Graham Dilley, Neil Foster, Graham Gooch, David Gower, Allan Lamb, Derek Pringle, Jack Richards, Robin Smith.